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FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1849.

[SIXPENCE { WITH SUPPLEMENT GRATIS.

THE GOLD OF CALIFORNIA.

THE Dorado of the early Spanish and English adventurers turns out to have been no fable. It was not the mere vision of their too brilliant and excitable imaginations. It was a palpable reality. The golden region exists—not in the unsubstantial air, in the Atlantis of Plato, or in the Utopia of Sir Thomas More; but in a country to which ships can sail, and to which living men of this every-day world can resort, and pick up the treasure, that smiles at their feet, and woos them to clutch it. California the Golden is the bright particular spot on the Earth's surface to which all men's attention is directed. It is a new Holy Land for the votaries of Mammon: pilgrims and devotees resort to it from the remotest corners of the globe. The discovery of its amazing wealth is the crowning event in a year of wonders. The year 1848 began in distress and gloom, and lived the greater part of its life amid turmoil and commotion; but it died amid visions of returning peace, reviving confidence, and illimitable riches. A halo of aurean splendour surrounds its memory. It was thought to have accomplished revolutions enough when it changed the political aspect of Europe; but political revolutions, if the accounts received from America are but half true, were the least important of its deeds. A still greater revolution was destined to be commenced within its time—a golden revolution which shall alter the measure of value throughout the civilised world—make the poor

rich, and the rich poor—pay off the debts of nations, and start the world afresh in the career of civilisation.

The first feeling excited in Europe by the reports from California was one of incredulity. But the completeness, and multifariousness of the details brought over by every succeeding packet, have gradually diminished the doubts of the men of the Old World; and they are now prepared to believe in any marvels that may be reported of the gold of California. Doubt is no longer possible, in the face of such testimony as is daily received. The wonder is, not that the gold is there, but that it should never have been discovered until now. But while the Old World is wondering, the New World is working. The Anglo-Americans have laid hands upon the magnificent prey. California swarms with treasure-seekers; and there is not a man among them that does not find what he seeks. "The sands of the Pactolus," says a letter from San Blas, on the Gulf of California, "have long ceased to be golden; the mines of Mexico hardly pay the working of them; but in the bed and along the banks of the Sacramento, the virgin ore waits but to be gathered in an abundance at present not to be estimated. Lumps of pure gold have been picked up, each large enough to make a diadem. The man who in the morning possessed no property but his labour, no instrument but his unassisted hands, before night saw himself the owner of more wealth than years of labour in any other country of the world could have procured him, and in a few days he became

rich, and, if he chose, independent." The manner in which the treasures of the land were first laid bare to the greedy eyes of civilised men is of a piece with the romance of the whole story. Although the traditions reported by Pizarro and Raleigh showed a knowledge on the part of the aboriginal inhabitants of the American continent of the vast stores of gold that lay scattered in some regions, the Dorado had no fixed locality. The Californian aborigines were too unintelligent to be aware of the wealth at their feet. They saw the shining lumps, but did not know them to be gold; and the missionary establishments, under the superintendence of the Spanish Jesuits, who had a sort of nominal possession of the country, were too scanty, too much confined to the coast regions, and too unenterprising, to light on such good fortune. It remained for the industry of the Anglo-American race to discover and to appropriate the treasure. Wherever Brother Jonathan penetrates, he sets to work.

In the course of the winter of 1847-48, a Captain Sutter, one of the emigrants from the United States, or more probably from the adjacent country of Oregon, built a saw-mill on the south branch of the Sacramento river, known as the American Fork, and constructed a mill-race and dam to supply it. "But when it was completed," says an account in an American journal, "it was found that the 'tail race,' or channel whereby the water used to turn the mill is discharged, was too small. To economise time and trouble, the wheel was 'thrown out of gear,' and the whole body of water in



PLAYS AT WINDSOR CASTLE.—SHAKSPEARE'S "MERCHANT OF VENICE," PERFORMED BEFORE HER MAJESTY.—PRODUCED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. CHARLES KEAN.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The existence of a Government which is neither provisional nor revolutionary, but fixed and definite, appears to have created a sense of security in Paris to which its citizens have long been strangers, and from which, therefore, they derive increased satisfaction.

On New Year's day, which has always been a day of gladness with the Parisians, the streets of the capital were crowded with joyous groups, whose tranquil cheerfulness contrasted strongly with the spirit of violence or of dismay alternately exhibited by the crowds that have hitherto thronged the thoroughfares. One incident of rather a stirring nature took place about one o'clock, which passed off with the same quiet that characterized the whole of the day. About 50 or 60 old soldiers of the Imperial army, dressed in the well-known uniform which recalls the most glorious deeds of modern French history, marched along the Boulevards, accompanying a gigantic bouquet, which was borne on the shoulders of the most robust and the least stricken in years amongst them. The veteran band comprised the representatives of every arm of the old Imperial army. Amongst them might be distinguished the red uniform of the Lancers of the Imperial Guard; the green of the old *Dragons de l'Impératrice*; the light blue and white of the cavalry of that country which first gave the lance to the armies of Europe; and the familiar blue with red facings, turned up with white, of the Old Guard. A party of ten or twelve walked in front of the bouquet, another in the rear; and the *cordon* of the immense box, from which shot up the flowers and shrubs, were held on each side by the oldest of the band. On the sides of the box that contained the offering were traced four or five letters, interwoven in a cipher, and intended to represent the name and rank of the nephew of him whom these veterans had served in other times—the letters were L.N., P.R. The band slowly marched along the Boulevards, and proceeded to the official residence of the President of the Republic, for whom the compliment was intended. Large crowds were attracted by the sight, and accompanied the triumphal car thus laden with flowers to its destination. By the time it reached the Rue Fanbourg St. Honoré, the streets in that direction were nearly impassable. Yet, notwithstanding the multitude that formed the *cortège*, not a cry was heard, and all passed off in the most tranquil manner.

The President gave a reception, which is noticed elsewhere.

Throughout the day the shops were thronged with purchasers, thus restoring, in some degree, the old pre-revolutionary appearance of Paris.

Short as is the time since the new Cabinet has entered office, it has sufficed to produce some Ministerial changes of consequence, which have been caused by the respective rights and duties of the President of the Republic, and his Ministry not being so clearly defined and comprehended by both parties as to prevent misunderstanding. The resignations and appointments are:—1st. M. Léon Faucher, Minister of the Interior, in the place of M. Léon de Malleville. 2nd. M. Lacroix, Vice-President of the National Assembly, Minister of Public Works, in the place of M. Léon Faucher. And, 3rd, M. Buffet, representative of the people, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, in the place of M. Bixio.

The cause of the resignation of M. Léon de Malleville, Minister of the Interior, was understood to be that the President had made an appointment which properly belonged to that department; and M. de Malleville, having refused to countersign it, Prince Louis Napoleon held him for the act in a letter couched in despotic language *à la Bonaparte*. The appointment proposed by the President, and rejected by M. de Malleville, was that of Count Nieuwerkerke, a distinguished sculptor, to the post of Director of Fine Arts. This appointment was understood to have been proposed at the urgent request of the Princess Demidoff, the President's cousin. It is further stated that the President demanded from M. de Malleville three letters which he had addressed to Louis Philippe after the affair of Strasbourg, and which remain deposited in the archives of the Ministry of the Interior. These letters M. de Malleville refused to give up. It is added, also, that the President required to have the telegraphic despatches communicated to him, as well as other details of the administration, which M. de Malleville thought it his duty to withhold.

The *Réforme* contains the following version of the cause of the resignation of M. Léon de Malleville:—“According to certain reports, the Minister of the Interior obstinately refused to deliver up to the President of the Republic the evidence collected relative to the affairs of Strasbourg and Boulogne, because that evidence was collected by a certain Minister of the Republic himself when he was Under-Secretary of State and Director-General of the Police of the kingdom under Louis Philippe. Amongst those documents are, it is said, several curious letters written by police agents against the present President of the Republic. The scruples of the Minister may well be imagined, and that consequently he would rather resign than deliver up his own work.”

The resignation of M. Bixio arose from his being the only one of the Ministry who approved of the course taken by M. de Malleville.

M. Lacroix, who has been nominated to the Ministry of Public Works, vacated by M. Léon Faucher, was a strong supporter of General Cavaignac, but nevertheless belonged to the moderate party.

The demand for the dissolution of the National Assembly is becoming more clamorous every day, and on Saturday last a proposition on the subject was formally brought forward. It is to the effect that the elections for the Legislative Assembly shall take place on March 4th; that that Assembly shall be convoked for the 19th, on which day the functions of the present Assembly shall terminate; and that, in the meanwhile, the present Assembly shall confine its discussions to the electoral law and the law relative to the Council of State. This project, which has been declared “urgent,” has been referred to the Committee of Justice and Legislation.

The great distress which exists amongst the poorer classes at present in Paris, and the non-fulfilment—by any immediate remedial act of statesmanship on the part of the Prince-President—of the extravagant expectations which the more humble and numerous classes of his supporters at the late election seem to have formed to themselves of the benefits to be derived from his rule, have begun, even already, to impair the popular favour hitherto so emphatically expressed in his regard; but which, uncertain and fickle at all times and in all nations, is above all others in France, and during a period of revolution, the most fleeting of sentiments; and, however unreasonable it may be to expect, in a few days, the cure of evils which date from the commencement of the late revolutionary commotions, the discontent evinced with respect to the new President is not the less certain and general.

There is no particular act censured; no accusation brought against him for any specific fact. It is his want of energy, his apathy, his indifference to the state of the country, his originating no measure to relieve its condition or render its embarrassments less, that have excited feelings so different from that which existed scarcely a fortnight since; while at the same time it is observed that he seems to pay more attention to the fashion of his new liveries and his state carriages than to the interests of the country, the adoption of a judicious system of policy, or the reparation of the immense injuries inflicted on the country by the late revolutionary Governments. People of all parties are beginning to express concurrence in one fact, that, instead of a blessing, the Revolution of February was one of the greatest misfortunes that could fall on a civilised nation.

The mortality in Paris during the week was considerably above the average, owing to the sufferings caused by the severity of the weather.

SPAIN.

According to accounts from Madrid, the Minister for Foreign Affairs stated in the Chamber of Deputies on the 27th ult., in reply to some Progressives Deputies who had asked that the official correspondence, which had passed between the Governments of Great Britain and Spain, relative to the expulsion of Mr. Bulwer, should be communicated to the Assembly, that he had no objection to lay that correspondence before the Chamber.

An important victory obtained by the Carlists under Cabrera, over the “army of Catalonia,” commanded by Captain General Concha in person, is announced in the Bayonne papers. The battle was fought in the environs of Vich on the 26th ult., and is described as being most sanguinary and decisive. The Carlist Chief was at the head of his united forces, amounting to 10,000 men, and the Queen's army was 14,000 strong. Four squadrons of cavalry and 1400 infantry, composed of the best soldiers of the army, were taken prisoners. The remainder fled in every direction, and the Carlist General, although slightly wounded in the head by a musket-ball, warmly pursued the fugitives. This account requires confirmation.

BELGIUM.

The Brussels *Moniteur* of Monday last published the law adopted by the Chamber, and sanctioned by the King, by which the budget of the expenditure for 1849 is fixed at 11,620,000 francs in the department of Finance. By another law, provisional credits are opened in the budget for 1849 as follows: In the department of Justice, 1,000,000 f.; department of the Interior, 990,000 f.; Public Works, 2,775,000 f.; War, 5,000,000 f.; Finance, 2,200,000 f. To the same department for divers services comprised in the budget, 160,000 f.

The Government has given permission for the entry of corn grain, whether by Belgian or foreign ships, at 50 centimes per 100 kilogrammes. Considerable reductions are also made in the entrance dues on potatoes and other vegetables, on horned cattle, and dried meats, &c.

ITALIAN STATES.

ROME.—A supreme Junta of Government has been constituted at Rome: it is composed of MM. Corsini, Galletti, and Camarata, and to remain in office till the Constituent Assembly shall have been convened. On the 20th the Junta published a proclamation, in which, after declaring their insufficiency for the difficult task imposed upon them, they promise, with the assistance of the other Powers, to maintain order internally, to aid the development of free institutions, to restore prosperity in every class, and to co-operate by every means in the establishment of national independence. But they declare at the same time that they will only continue in office till a Constituent Assembly of the Roman States shall have pronounced itself on the question of the political form of the State; and they will hasten as much as possible the moment when such an Assembly shall meet. The Ministry has been modified thus: Mazzarelli, President, Minister of Public Instruction and (*ad interim*) Foreign Affairs; Armellini, Interior; Galletti, Justice; Mamiani, Finances; Sterbini, Commerce and Public Works; Cambello, War. The War Minister is very active, offering premiums for the enrolment of soldiers.

THE POPE still continues at Gaëta, where the King and Royal Family of Naples are also for the most part staying, to honour their fugitive guest. A great number of Cardinals and the Foreign Ambassadors are also at Gaëta. Admiral Parker and Mr. Temple, our Ministers at Naples, lately paid their respects to the Pope. The object of their visit, it is said, was to offer his Holiness an asylum at Malta, should he be disposed to seek refuge on British ground. The Pope, in acknowledging the attention, declared it to be his determination for the present to remain at Gaëta.

SWITZERLAND.

Advices from Berne this week say: The Grand Council of Friburg has come to the following resolution:—Amnesty for all political crimes and misdemeanours which were connected with the attempts at insurrection which occurred at the commencement of the year, and in the revolt of October last; payment by the state of the expenses of the military occupation resulting from these events, and with which the communes have been charged; conversion of the contribution of 1,600,000 francs of Switzerland imposed on the authors and persons engaged in the war of the Sonderbund, into a forced loan, reimbursable by the state by means of the sinking fund.

PRUSSIA.

Intelligence from Berlin this week mentions that on Monday last, the 1st inst., the budget for 1849 was issued, signed by the King, and countersigned by Kühne, for the Minister of Finance. The receipts for 1849 are estimated at 88,566,382 rix dollars; extraordinary usances, 5,608,000—total, 94,174,380. The expenditure is estimated: current expenses, 88,506,061 rix dollars; extraordinary expenses, 5,668,319: total, 94,174,380. The expenditure, in 1848, amounted to 88,523,739 rix dollars; consequently the budget of 1849 is estimated at 88,550,641 rix dollars higher than in the preceding year. Addresses of congratulation on the new year to the King, Queen, and Royal Family had been presented from the citizens and the municipal authorities.

General Wrangel had granted the permission for holding public meetings of the electors, notwithstanding the state of siege, on condition the citizens presiding at them pledged themselves not to allow any unnecessary discussion on political questions.

Three of the late Deputies of the Assembly—one of them the eminent jurist, M. Temme—had been arrested, by order of the Government, on the charge of inciting the people to refuse the payment of taxes.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

Advices to the 29th ult. have been received from the seat of war. A bulletin from Prince Windischgrätz announces the capture, by the Austrians, under the command of Marshal Berger, of the strong fortress of Arad, with a loss on their part of 15 killed and 40 wounded. Raab also has been taken. Early on the morning of the 27th ult. Prince Windischgrätz directed two columns to cross the Danube at two points, above the town and below it. The latter crossing was effected at the juncture of the river Raab with the Danube, and the whole of the manoeuvre was intended to cut off the retreat of the Hungarian army. The Commander-in-Chief advanced meanwhile with the reserve corps to the banks of the Rabnitz, over which he threw a bridge, the construction of which was scarcely completed when he was informed of the retreat of the Hungarians, who had abandoned their fortifications and fallen back in two columns, one taking the road to the fortress of Comorn, and the other proceeding in the direction of Ofen. On his way to the town of Raab, Prince Windischgrätz was met by a deputation of citizens, who presented him with the keys of the town, cheered him, and illuminated the city in the evening. Prince Windischgrätz found it impossible to intercept the retreat of the Hungarians; his light horse succeeded, indeed, in closing with the rear of the enemy, and one officer and nine privates of the Hussars were captured.

Immediately on the occupation of Raab by the Imperial troops, General Oettinger led his troops a forced march to Babilna, where he arrived at 5 o'clock in the morning of the 28th ult. He found the enemy's rear-guard occupying that town, and proceeded forthwith to attack them. The main body of the Hungarians continued their retreat; but a body of horsemen of the late regiment, “The Prince of Prussia,” were surrounded by two divisions of the Wallmoden Dragoons, who cut part of them down and captured the rest. The Austrians made altogether 700 prisoners, 200 of whom were wounded.

DENMARK AND SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

The intelligence from Schleswig speaks of an invasion of the Duchy by the Danish troops as a probable event.

PRINCIPALITIES OF THE DANUBE.

The news from the Danubian Principalities is up to the 22nd December. The armies of the Turks and the Russians have gone into winter quarters. The Turkish troops are at Bucharest, and some, also, in the principal towns on the banks of the Danube, such as Galatz, Ibraila, and Gieurgewo. The Russian army has taken its position along the highway from Bessarabia to Bucharest, at Leowa, Berlad, Fokshan, Buesca, Bucharest, and Jassy.

EGYPT.

Intelligence from Alexandria, dated the 21st ult., states that the Sultan's firman, appointing Abbas Pacha Viceroy of Egypt, had been publicly read in the citadel at Cairo. The new Viceroy left Cairo on the 18th for Alexandria, on his way to Constantinople, to receive the confirmation of his appointment. He was to sail on the 21st, in the Sultan's steam-yacht, accompanied by two Egyptian war steamers, taking with him £200,000 to spend in Constantinople.

UNITED STATES.

Advices to the 20th ult. have been received from New York during the week. In the House of Representatives, the following resolution, in reference to the arrest of American sympathisers in Ireland, had been adopted:—

“Resolved, that the President of the United States be requested to inform this House whether he has received any information that American citizens have been imprisoned or arrested by the British authorities in Ireland; and, if so, what have been the causes thereof, and what steps have been taken for their release; and, if not, in his opinion, inconsistent with the public interests, to furnish this House with copies of all correspondence in relation to the matter.”

In the Senate a motion had been made calling upon the President for information concerning any correspondence which had been had with the Government of Spain, in reference to the purchase of the island of Cuba. The motion was, however, opposed, and subsequently withdrawn.

Four projects for the settlement of the slavery question in the territories are now before Congress:—1. Making one state of California, to be organised immediately, and leaving the question of slavery to the people. 2. The petition of the people of New Mexico for organisation into a state, with slavery excluded expressly by law. 3. Clayton's old compromise bill, leaving the matter to the supreme court. 4. The resolutions of the House of Representatives, instructing the Territorial Committee to report a bill for the organisation of territorial governments, excluding slavery. It is not supposed that any of these projects can be carried through at the present session.

According to the medical report of the Office of Health at Staten Island, the cholera was on the increase, but it was fortunately of a mild type. A vessel had arrived at Baltimore, from Rotterdam, with several cases on board.

The Park Theatre, and several other buildings at New York, were totally destroyed by fire on the 16th ult.

The California excitement, which we notice in another column, was increasing daily.

MEXICO.

The latest news from Mexico is of the 25th of November, from the capital; and the 27th of the same month from Vera Cruz. It was generally believed in Mexico that Paredes had got off in the last British steamer. He has been traced as far towards the coast as Orizaba.

The news from the insurgents of Sierra Gordo is again deplorable; they were continually attacking haciendas, killing and plundering the inhabitants. Bustamente despatched a force against them from Queretaro, but they took refuge at once in almost inaccessible fastnesses, losing only a few men in killed and wounded. The Government was about to reinforce Bustamente, and there would seem to be need of it, as serious fear had been entertained lest the insurgents should gain possession of the city of Queretaro. Durango was over-run by Indians, said to be Camanches, the small villages making no resistance to their ruthless foes. The road from the city of Durango to the port of Mazatlan was in their possession. A valuable commerce is carried on by this route. Men of character and note are often killed by these savages.

INDIA.

Advices have been received this week in anticipation of the Overland Mail. The dates are from Calcutta to the 25th of November, from the seat of war to the 20th November, and Bombay to the 3rd December.

The Commander-in-Chief, by these advices, had crossed the Ravee, near Ramnugger, some 56 miles from Lahore, and was manoeuvring to get hold of the rebels in a decided action. At Mooltan the temerity of the Dewan had been signally punished by the capture of the outwork thrown out to molest our camp, with a considerable loss of troops on his part and of seven heavy guns.

The *Friend of India* gives the following able summary as well of the attack as of the circumstances under which it occurred:—“A battery erected on the outside of the walls of the town greatly annoyed our position. On the evening of the 6th of November it was determined to send a considerable force, under Brigadier Markham, an hour before daylight, to take the enemy by surprise. On that day it appears that intelligence of the defection of the troops at Peshawar had reached the camp, and, combined with the non-arrival of reinforcements from Scinde or Ferozepore, greatly disheartened the men. To add to the confusion, six companies of General Cortland's regiment went over in small detachments to the enemy; and the officers under whom they had been appointed to serve found themselves in a very awkward position, though they had reason to congratulate themselves on not having been attacked when the traitors left our camp. From various circumstances, the idea of a surprise was given up, and orders were issued to the men to cook and eat, and to be in readiness at half-past nine o'clock in the morning. They had hardly commenced when news arrived that Major Edwards's camp was attacked in force by the enemy, who had outflanked his batteries. They were driven back with great loss, after a hand-to-hand fight, in which his men exhibited their wonted valour. In the meantime the troops under Brigadier Markham advanced to the rescue, and having made a detour to the right, moved down on the enemy, cavalry and infantry emulating each other. Battery after battery was taken, and all the enemy's guns were shortly in our possession, with the exception of two, which were withdrawn into the town. No officers were even wounded; only two Europeans and four natives were killed, and about fourteen wounded. The loss of the enemy was very severe. Our success was most complete, and it reflects the highest credit on the skill and judgment of the Brigadier, whose manoeuvres are the theme of general praise in all the letters which have been published from the camp. The exact loss of Major Edwards has not been ascertained, but it is believed to have been fully 200 in killed and wounded.”

An army of reserves was being formed on the inner frontier of the Punjab; while on the disturbed confines the insurgents, who had allowed their day of impunity to pass unprofitably, were making every shift to avoid an action, at the expense of retreating upon those sterile ridges, the spurs of the Himalaya, peopled by Mussulmans, where at least they will have a guerrilla warfare to fight in a hostile country.

The Governor-General left Allahabad in the middle of November, on his way to the north-west frontier.

PAST AND PRESENT.—WAGES.—EXPENSE OF GOVERNMENT.

(From a Correspondent.)

MR. MACAULAY's admirable “History of England,” recently published, contains a chapter on the changes in the state of England since the period of Charles the Second's death, in 1665. By industry and research scarcely surpassed he has collected curious materials—the dry bones of knowledge—from all kinds of out-of-the-way literature, and all kinds of records; he has animated them by his own informing spirit; embellished them by his own graphic and expressive pen; and placed before us a living picture of our ancestors, such as no master has ever before created. A few of the facts he has collected, illustrating the condition of the labouring classes, and the expense of the Government at different periods, may not be unacceptable to our readers.

To be told the rate of wages without knowing the price of food gives no information; it is necessary, therefore, to state that the average price of the quarter of wheat during the last twelve years of Charles II. was 50s. It is now 51s. and, during the existence of the Corn Laws, the average was not more than 56s. 10d. At the former period beer was not more than half its present price, which is kept high by the duties levied on malt. The rural population had, at the former period, some little advantages, such as the use of common land occasionally to feed a flock of geese, or of the woods in which to turn the pigs at Michaelmas. “He cut turf among the furze-bushes on the moor, which is now a meadow bright with clover, and renowned for butter and cheese. He snared wild-fowl on the fen, that has long since been drained and divided into corn-fields and turnip-fields.” But the town population had none of these advantages, and their condition may be accurately estimated by their wages and the price of provisions. Amongst the commodities for which the labourer would have had to pay a higher price in 1685 than his posterity pay in 1848, were sugar, salt, soap, candles, shoes, stockings, and generally all articles of clothing and all articles of bedding. It is an error, therefore, to suppose that money wages would go much further than in providing the labourer with the necessities of life than now: in fact, the same sum of money would purchase less clothing and less fuel, less meat, and a little more bread and more beer, than now.

The average wages of agricultural labourers in 1685 were about 4s. a week, without food; in Warwickshire, at that period, they were fixed at that rate, and every employer who gave more, and every labourer who received more, was liable to be punished. In Devonshire the wages of the agricultural labourer were 5s., without food; in Suffolk, 5s. in winter, and 6s. in summer. In Essex, in 1661, they were fixed at 6s. in winter, and 7s. in summer; but wheat was then 70s. the quarter. In 1680 it was noticed as an exorbitant payment that an English mechanic exacted 1s. a day. In an old ballad published in the reign of Charles II., the weaver complained that 6d. a day was all that could be earned by hard labour at the loom; and the poet demanded as a proper remuneration 1s. a day. From the carefully-kept records of Greenwich it appears that in the course of 120 years the daily earnings of the bricklayer have risen from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 10d.; those of the mason from 2s. 6d. to 5s. 3d.; those of the carpenter from 2s. 6d. to 5s. 5d.; and those of the plumber from 3s. to 5s. 6d. It seems clear, therefore, that the wages of labour estimated in money were in 1685 not more than half what they now are, and that the money would not buy more good things than now. We do not say, because wages are better now than in 1685, that the people should not strive for higher wages; though their condition may in comparison be improved, it is universally felt to be worse than it ought to be; it is,



THE PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION, AT THE ELYSEE NATIONAL.

rounded by the Ministers and Marshals of France, and attended by General Changarnier and a numerous and brilliant staff. He wore the uniform of General of the National Guard, with the Grand Cordon and Star of the Legion of Honour, and stood in the centre of the magnificent saloon on the ground-floor, in front of the Marshals, and uncovered. The company passed him, moving from the left to the right. All the members of the diplomatic corps were in full dress of ceremony. The Pope's Nuncio was the first, the British Ambassador the second; followed, in succession, by the Spanish and Belgian Ambassadors, the Dutch and Swedish Ministers, and the Chargés d'Affaires of the other powers. The President advanced towards the Apostolic Nuncio, and expressed his hope of soon seeing his Holiness re-established in his States. This marked reception seemed to have a lively effect on the representative of the Court of Rome. The President gave all the other Ambassadors assurances of his sincere desire for peace and union.

The other constituted bodies passed the President in the following order:—The old officers of the Empire; the superior officers in non-activity; the Courts of Cassation and Accounts; the superior Council of the University; the Court of Appeal, in their robes, with their first Presidents and Procureurs-Généraux at their head. The President addressed the first President, M. Portalis, and spoke of the illustrious reputation of his father, and the high esteem in which he was held by the Emperor. On receiving M. Troplong, recently made first President

of the Court of Appeal, the President of the Republic expressed his satisfaction at having had to place one of his first signatures to the nomination of so eminent a lawyer, called to that post by public opinion. When the Board of Admiralty came forward, the President addressed Admiral Hugon, and expressed his admiration of his conduct at the Battle of Navarino, the siege of Algiers in 1830, and in 1841, when he commanded the fleet in the East.

ANCIENT AND MODERN ROME.

ROME Imperial! Rome majestic!
Shade of greatness vanish'd
all—
Looking down th' abyss of ages
To behold thy rise and fall,
We can trace upon thy forehead,
Queen and wonder of thy day,
Broadly marked the awful sent
ence,
"Pass away!"

Great but wicked, fair but cruel,
Scepter'd mischief, worshipp'd
long,
Never yet did men or nations
Prosper finally in wrong.
Justice did her work upon thee,
Mightier than thine own her sway,
'Twas her voice pronounced thy
judgment—
"Pass away!"

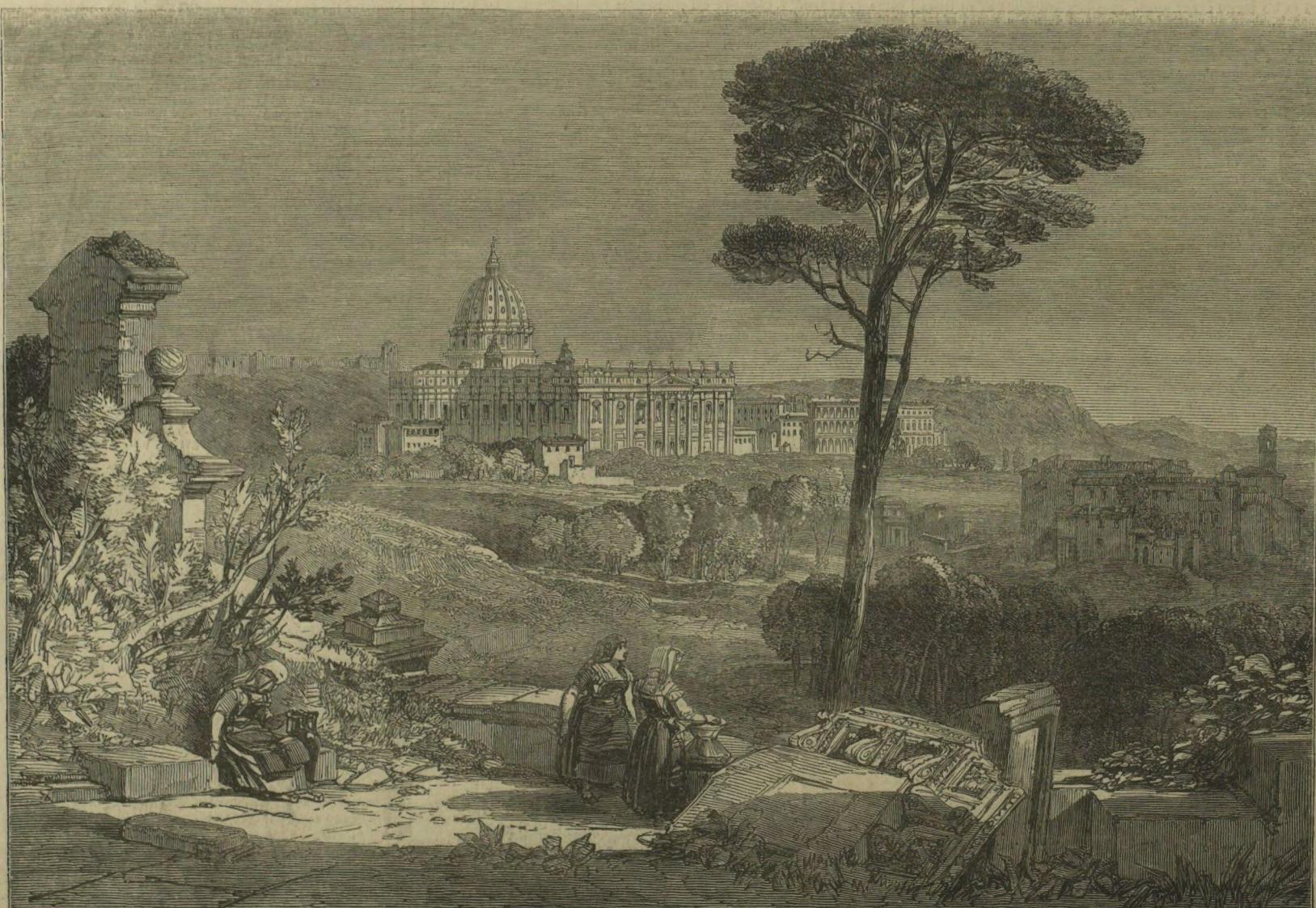
Modern Rome! thou mitred phœ-
nix!

Risen from those embers cold,
Looking dimly through the future,
The same shadow we behold—
Shadow of a power departing,
Spectre of a great decay,
Bearing on its front the motto
"Pass away!"

Whither went the ancient Cæsars
With the pomp of peace or war,
Thither go the modern Pontiffs
With dominion grander far.
Papal stole and regal purple
Fall in ripeness of the day,
Cæsar's crown and Pope's tiara
"Pass away!"

Priestly Rome! thy cup is filling :
In our era, dauntless Truth
Feels her life and struggles upwards
With the energy of youth.
Thou shalt bind her wings no
longer,
Never more her progress stay ;
Thou hast lived thy generation—
"Pass away!"

If hereafter from thy ashes
A new phoenix shall ascend,
May she learn to dwell with Virtu
And take Freedom for her friend.
If as thou she clogs the spirit,
And denies the truth of day,
On her head thy doom be spoken—
"Pass away!"



ROME.—DRAWN BY LEITCH.

FINE ARTS.



ALBERT DURER.—FROM A PICTURE BY HIMSELF.

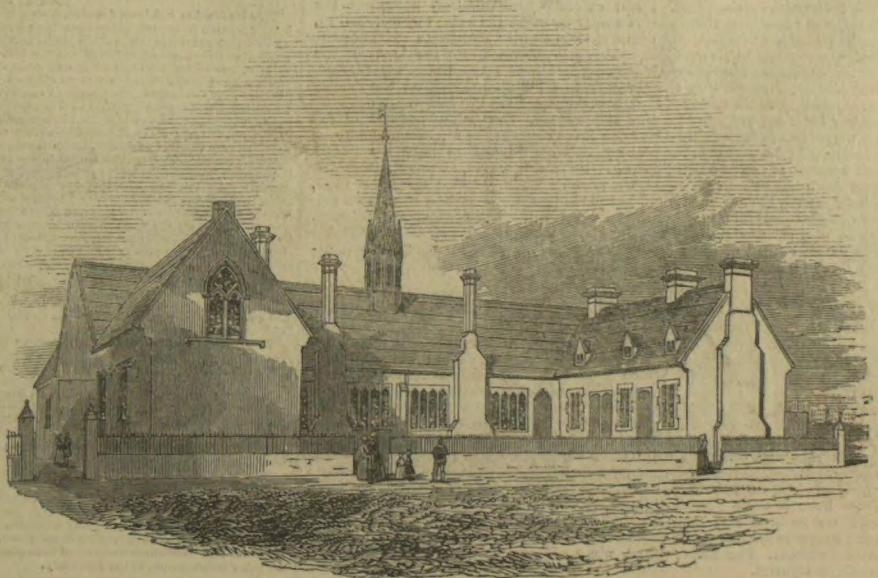
that he not only possessed the talent of catching the exact expression of the features, but also of delineating the different characters and passions. Hence, it is reasonable to infer the Portrait before us to be an accurate presentment of the master who painted it.

The fitness of this Illustration for a volume of masterpieces of Wood Engraving, will be acknowledged when the high fame of Albert Durer as an engraver on wood is recollected: his wood-cuts are triumphs of the art, and considered equal to those of Hugh de Carpi; the British Museum is rich in specimens of Durer's drawings and engravings. His lifetime is an important epoch in the history of Wood-Engraving, for no artist of his time contributed more to its advancement. In the present day, Wood-Engraving may be termed a *revived art*; and it is not too much to add, that by no other means have the works of the artist been so extensively multiplied, or made to minister to the delight of such multitudes, as through the medium of Wood-Engraving. Durer is, indeed, a memory that must ever evoke popular gratitude.

The volume of "Gems" before us is a carefully-made selection from the *chef-d'oeuvres* which have appeared in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, from its first establishment to the present time. In re-producing these works, all that fine printing and quality of paper can effect is here accomplished. The subjects selected are from almost every department of graphic art—History, Landscape, Portrait, Still Life, Architecture, Animals, and Imaginative Composition—affording, from their excellence and variety, not only a pleasing recreation to the amateur, but also supplying the artist with interesting subjects of study.

The collection numbers upwards of 90 Illustrations, each, in most cases printed upon a folio page of delicately tinted paper, with a margin of such breadth as materially to aid the artistic excellence of the Engravings. In the difficult

HIS characteristic Portrait of the great Master of Germany—Albert Durer, very appropriately forms the frontispiece to a superb volume, entitled "Gems of Wood Engraving," just published. The Picture is a *fac simile* of an Engraving by Lucas Hillian, after a painting by Durer himself, the engraving being in the Print Room of the British Museum. Durer's Portraits are highly esteemed; it was said of him



NEW SCHOOLS AT KENTISH TOWN.

art of what is technically termed "bringing up," in heightening the fine effects of light and shade, the work is an unsurpassed specimen of the printer's art; the breadth and delicacy, in some instances, is truly surprising. The works of the old masters have furnished many subjects, sacred and secular; and the painters of our own time, even to the exhibitions of the last London season, have contributed several charming scenes: in the school of English landscape, as well as of the Marine class, there are some exquisite productions.

Prefixed is a kind of *catalogue raisonné* of the Illustrations, with a few lines descriptive of each subject, its artist, and the manner of engraving of which it is a specimen. Appendix is the "History of the Origin and Progress of Wood-Engraving," which originally appeared in this Journal in 1844; to which several additions have been made. We should not omit to mention the illustrative head and tail-pieces, initial letters, &c., as accessories of this beautiful record of art.

As a gift-book for the season, but still possessing more permanent attractions for all who cherish a love of the fine arts of the pencil and the graver, the present volume is entitled to foremost rank. Twenty years ago, such a work as the present could not possibly have been produced; and hence will doubtless be awarded to it a high position in the memorials of the art of our time.

KENTISH TOWN NATIONAL, INFANT, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

THESE Schools, which have just been erected in the district of Kentish Town, in the northern part of the parish of St. Pancras, comprise three school-rooms, affording accommodation for 150 boys, 150 girls, and 150 infants, with a suitable class-room attached to each. Every arrangement requisite for cleanliness, ventilation, &c., has been carefully attended to, and spacious play-grounds in the rear of the buildings will enable the children to take recreation without leaving the premises. Three teachers' residences, consisting each of four rooms, form the eastern wing of the building, which is arranged as a quadrangle, the fourth side being open, and facing towards the south. The turret acts as a ventilator to the National Schools. The site, consisting of one acre, has been conveyed, by the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, under the sanction of an act of Parliament, and forms part of a small estate, bequeathed, upwards of a century and a half ago, by the celebrated preacher, Dr. South, to Christ Church, as a foundation for scholarships; and, from the conditions of the transfer, this estate will be much enhanced in annual value when laid out as building ground.

The architect is Mr. John H. Hakewill, the builders Messrs. J'Anson. The total cost—about £3000—is defrayed partly by grants from the National Society and the Committee of Privy Council on Education, the new regulations of the latter having been scrupulously attended to throughout, so that these Schools form a fair model of what is required and recommended by the Privy Council, and partly by liberal private subscriptions, &c., which still require some additions.

On the 31st ult., the day previous to the opening, the Bishop of London preached in behalf of the building fund, at Kentish Town Chapel, and the collections after his Lordship's and two other sermons amounted to £107. On New Year's Day, after attending service at the chapel, the school children, with the clergy in their robes, the subscribers and visitors, repaired to the new buildings. An appropriate prayer was delivered by the Rev. W. Millner, Minister of Kentish Town, and a hymn was sung by the children. A meeting of the subscribers and visitors was then held, the Rev. W. Millner in the chair; and a report from the Sub-Committee, detailing the present state of the funds, &c., having been read, the meeting was addressed by the Rev. D. Laing, C. Phillips, T. Alberg, E. Lawrence, Esq., James Beaumont, Esq., Harry Chester, Esq., George Hodgkinson, Esq., &c., who strongly urged the support of the Schools by increased annual subscriptions. At the conclusion, the school-children were regaled with a plentiful and substantial dinner of roast beef and plum-pudding, laid out in the National School-rooms, which had been tastefully adorned with evergreens for the occasion. During the whole of the morning and afternoon the rooms were crowded with visitors; and upwards of £200, including the collections at the sermons, have been received towards making up the deficiency.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

JUDGES' CHAMBERS.

M'KARE v. LORD HARLEY.—PRIVILEGES OF A PEER.—On Saturday, an application was made to Mr. Baron Platt by Mr. Corfield, solicitor to the present Earl of Oxford, who was detained in the Queen's Prison as the Hon. Alfred Harley, commonly called Lord Harley, for his discharge, he having succeeded, by the death of his father, to the title of the Earl of Oxford. The necessary documents were produced, and his Lordship, after considering the matter, directed the attorneys of the several detaining creditors to show cause why the Earl of Oxford should not be discharged from custody, he being a Peer of the realm. The summonses were made returnable on Monday, on which day several attorneys attended on the part of the creditors. In some cases the parties consented, and orders were made for the discharge of the noble defendant; but in the above-named cause the application was resisted by the detaining creditor's attorney. It was submitted that a Peer was not entitled to his privilege until he had taken the oaths prescribed.—Mr. Baron Platt said he had no doubt that a Peer was privileged before he had taken the oaths, and requested to be furnished with cases which would show the converse of the proposition.—His Lordship adjourned the summons for an hour, in order that counsel might appear for the creditor.—At a subsequent period of the day the matter was resumed. A barrister attended, and admitted that he could not cite cases to the effect that a Peer was not privileged until he had taken his seat.—His Lordship made the order in this as well as in the several other cases for the discharge of the Earl of Oxford from the Queen's Prison.—In this case a point was incidentally mentioned of a novel and important character, namely, whether the discharge would extinguish the several debts of the detaining creditors, or whether the judgments would survive the discharge of his Lordship. It seems that there is no case on the subject, and the question will decide whether an execution by operation of law will extinguish a debt in the same manner as a discharge by the act of a creditor. Orders in the several cases were drawn up, and the Earl of Oxford was discharged from the Queen's Prison.

POLICE.

HAMMERSMITH.

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY OF JEWELLERY.—On Saturday last, T. Chilcott, a sweep, living at 25, High-row, Knightsbridge, was charged on suspicion of having been concerned, with other persons not in custody, in breaking into the residence of Count Carlo Pepillo, No. 11, St. George's-terrace, Gloucester-road, Kensington, on the preceding Monday evening, and stealing therein bank notes, gold coins, and jewellery, &c., to the value of upwards of £500.—Count Pepillo deposed that on the evening mentioned, about half-past eight o'clock, in consequence of an alarm given by one of his servants, he went up to one of the attics, the door of which he found locked on the inside. An entrance was immediately effected, and on going in he found inside two dressing-cases, which had been taken from his own and his Countess' dressing-rooms, where they were always kept. On examining them, he found they had been opened by false keys, and their contents, which consisted of diamond ear-rings, brooches, rings, several gold bracelets studded with precious stones, two representing portraits of members of the Bonaparte family, several massive and heavy gold chains, numerous other rings and other jewellery, three gold watches, one having on the back a miniature of the Holy Virgin and Child, had all been taken away. Witness also found in the attic a desk belonging to himself, which had been broken open, and about £180 in Bank of England notes, together with a number of gold and silver medals, and French and Italian gold and silver coins of Napoleon, Charles X., Louis XVI., Gregory XVI., Pius IX., &c., stolen therefrom. Among the notes were two for £10 each, and eighteen for £5, numbered 90,117 to 90,134, and dated the 2nd of October, 1848. He likewise saw muddy and sooty foot-marks, which extended from the attic he had spoken of to the bed-rooms and dressing-rooms, and back again. Inspector Havell, T division, deposed that he had carefully and minutely examined the premises, and found that there was an empty house in the same terrace, No. 19, which he had also examined, and found therein similar footmarks to those the Count had described in his evidence, which also extended over the leads of the eight intervening houses between the empty house and the Count's residence. He had also ascertained that the prisoner had been employed at the empty house on the day of the robbery, to remove some coals, and had the possession of the key for that purpose. He was also seen in the neighbourhood of the Count's house from time to time between five o'clock in the afternoon and about eight o'clock in the evening, the robbery being presumed to have been committed between seven and eight o'clock. He had, however, no doubt, from the information he had received, that if the prisoner was remanded for a few days, he should, at the next examination, be able to produce other and important evidence against him. The prisoner said he was quite innocent of the robbery. He could prove that he gave up the key of the empty house when he had removed the coals, and he could also prove that he was at a relative's at Knightsbridge all the evening.—The prisoner was remanded for a week.

NARROW ESCAPE OF CHARLES COWAN, Esq., M.P.—On Thursday afternoon (last week), about four o'clock, while Mr. Cowan was driving along in a gig, in the direction of Clerkenwell, Edinburgh, in the southern part of the city, the horse stumbled, and becoming frightened, set off at full gallop till it reached Montague-street, down which it turned. When about twelve or fifteen yards from the bottom of the street, which is closed up by a dead wall, the driver threw himself from the gig, and from the velocity at which the animal was proceeding, fell with some force on the ground, grazing his cheek, and slightly injuring his leg. Mr. Cowan kept his seat; and the animal's course having been stopped by the wall, against which it came with some force, shattering the shafts of the vehicle, he fortunately contrived to get out without injury. He had no sooner accomplished this than the horse again set off up the street in the opposite direction, but, on reaching the top of it, its course was stopped by a fall, when it was secured and taken to Mr. Dick's, veterinary surgeon, Clyde-street. We are happy to state that Mr. Cowan sustained no injury, and that the driver's bruises are slight. The horse, which was a valuable animal, also escaped with some slight injuries.

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THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY-LANE.—CIRQUE NATIONAL DE PARIS.

The Proprietors of the Cirque National de Paris beg leave most respectfully to announce that, on MONDAY, JAN. 8, and during the Week, a variety of NOVELTIES will be introduced for the First time. Mesdames Caroline, Palmyre Abato, Mathilde, Ducois, Amaglia, &c. &c.; MM. Loiselet Aine, le Petit Loiselet (nicknamed in Paris the "Little Devil"), Wehle, Siegrist, Lalanne, &c. &c., will appear. The Performances will be accompanied by the Eccentricities of Messrs. Auriol, Leclair, Young Auriol, and Mahomet Ben Said.—Three Grand MORNING PERFORMANCES, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

NEW ROYAL SURREY THEATRE.—LESSEES, MR. SHEPHERD AND MISS VINCENT.—BEST PANTOMIME, BEST COMPANY, and the Most Elegant Theatre in London.—On MONDAY, Jan. 8th, and all the Week, the successful Drama of THE SECRETARY. Arthur Lester, Mr. Shepherd; Matthew, Mr. Vincent; Mrs. Lester, Mrs. Vincent; Jessy, Miss Vincent; Fatty, Miss Lebatt; Gertrude, Mrs. Brooks; Lady Julia, Madme. Ponissi, Sophie.—Richardson's "English Dictionary," abridged, and Descriptive Geography, in the "Instructor," published by Parker, West Strand.

J. S.—We do not know the address.

J. P.—Belfast.—The impression did not reach our hands.

A Correspondent is thanked for the extract from Fénélon's "Telemachus" versified, though we have not room to quote it.

Eloisa is recommended to apply to the Magazines.

A. Z.—We cannot advise you.

Trebla, Newport.—In the British Museum. See also Sir Rich. Worsley's "History of the Isle of Wight." Dr. Beattie's work did not reach it.

A. D., Desborough.—Does our Correspondent refer to a letter in charge of the Post-Office?

E. B., Chertsey.—Gratis to subscribers.

S. V., Northam.—We cannot aid you.

Enigmas.—We cannot find room.

A Subscribers, Great Yarmouth.—We do not interfere in wages.

An Expectant.—Apply respecting the cast at a large shop in Dean-street, Oxford-street end.

J. H. W., Wexford.—See the "Government Colonization Circular," to be had at 90, Fleet-street.

Numismatics.—The brass coin is not a farthing of Queen Anne, but merely a counter, or token, of that period. The gold coin is an angel of Edward IV., and, but for the hole, would have been worth a trifle beyond its intrinsic value.

Mercury.—Apply to a cutter.

H. S.—See the "American Almanack" for the present year. We have not a copy at hand.

C. F. A. W.—The Lord Mayor is, virtute officii, a member of the Privy Council.

X. Y. Z.—What is the question?

A Correspondent.—We are happy to be able to contradict the statement, that Brevet-Major Edwards has lost the use of his right hand; the injury being confined to the two middle fingers.

E. W., Gibraltar, is thanked, though we cannot avail ourselves of the offer.

A Jolly Novice.—The process is too long for detail here.

S. L. C., Cambridge.—We cannot avail ourselves of your proposition.

J. M. W., Bradford.—Taylor's "Shorthand," improved by Harding. To be had, by order, of any bookseller.

E. C. is thanked.

Manfred.—Byron's works, in 1 vol., 8vo. One guinea.

A Constant Reader, Manchester.—Apply at the Albany, Piccadilly.

Veto, Greenwich.—The Ophthalmic Hospital is in King William-street. Apply to the Secretary.

Cambridge.—We do not remember the circumstance.

E. T., Belfast, is thanked. The insertion will be gratuitous.

Susanne.—The first form of expression would be incorrect.

A Subscribers.—Game, as defined by Statute 1 & 2 Will. 4, c. 32, s. 2 (the late Game Act), consists of and includes—pheasants, partridges, grouse, hares, heath or moor game, black game, and bustards. The duties payable under the "Certificate Act," for taking or killing game, also apply to taking or killing woodcocks, snipes, quails, sandrails, and rabbits—subject to two exceptions, one of which is the taking of woodcocks or snipes with net or snares. The Game Act limits killing "game" to certain specified periods, but persons having certificates may take or kill snipes at any time of the year.

An Old Subscribers, Greenwich.—A double life insurance will answer; i.e. for two lives.

T. P. B., Pocklington.—Walker's "Electrotype Manipulation" is published by Knight and Co., Foster-lane.

Inkle had better see Mr. Taylor's work.

J. H., Kent.—Two newspapers may be sent abroad under one cover, provided double postage be paid.

A. S., Jersey, is thanked.

A Young Mechanic, North Shields.—The cost of a patent for England is one hundred and twenty pounds.

HERALDIC INQUIRIES.—Replies to several are, through indisposition, deferred.

BOOKS, &c. RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.

Patterson's First Steps to Zoology.

Music.—Sing me then the Songs of Old.—Love ne'er fades.

Come, blushing May.—When in happier days we wandered.—Say, wilt thou roam.—The Princess Louisa Polka.—Dearest Mae.—Oh Susanna.—Stop that knocking.

WITH THE PRESENT NUMBER OF

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

IS PUBLISHED (GRATIS)

A SUPPLEMENT,

Containing Title-Page and Indices to Volume XIII.—A Chronology of the Remarkable Events of the last Six Months.—And the conclusion of "Jerome Paturot," Illustrated by Gavarni.

REDUCTION IN THE PRICE OF THE COVERS FOR BINDING THE VOLUMES.—In future our Subscribers will be charged 2s. 6d. only for Covers for Binding the Volumes. The Cover for Vol. XIII. will be ready on Saturday, Jan. 13, 1849. —The Trade supplied.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1849.

MR. COBDEN's letter to the Liverpool Financial Reform Association, and Mr. Macgregor's address to his constituents at Glasgow, have brought the subject of the National Expenditure somewhat prominently before the public. The question of Taxation and Expenditure is urgent, and had already taken a firm hold of the opinion of the country. No man in the position of either of these gentlemen could fail to attract attention when speaking or writing on such a subject. Mr. Cobden's letter unfolds a bold and striking project. Whether it will be effective, is another question. He finds that the expenditure of 1835 was eleven millions less than that of 1848; and he simply proposes to go back to the estimates of the former period. He asserts that if the smaller sum only be voted by Parliament, Ministers will find means to make it answer as well in 1849 as it did in 1835, and supports this view of the case by the high financial authority of the late Sir Henry Parnell. With an expenditure less by eleven millions than it is at present, he would repeal the Assessed Taxes, the Malt Duty, the Duty on Hops, the Excise Duty on Soap and on Paper, and the Advertisement Duty, and would also reduce the Tea Duty to one shilling per pound, besides affording other relief to the great bulk of the consuming and producing community.

The statement is skilfully (the political opponents of the honourable gentleman say, cunningly) contrived, to unite in its support the bulk of the people. The repeal of the Assessed Taxes would be a great boon to all the dwellers in towns; the repeal of the Malt Tax would be considered a boon equally splendid by the agricultural interest; and with these two classes united strongly in support of the scheme, it would be no easy matter for any Ministry to resist its application, daring as the project may at present appear. Mr. Macgregor's exposition is not a new one. It is reproduced mainly from

one of the bulky statistical volumes of the honourable gentleman; but it is none the worse for having been previously given to the public. Mr. Macgregor would abolish all the Customs Duties, except on eight articles: but as these are the most productive, the Revenue would lose but little by the alteration. He would reduce our naval, military, and general expenditure by about six millions only, and would grant relief from taxation oppressive to the poorer classes by increasing the Property Tax to five per cent.

It will be seen that Mr. Cobden's plan is the bolder and abler of the two; but Mr. Macgregor's exposition—after due allowance for its prolixity and bad grammar—will possibly be considered by many as the safer guide. Both of them will be of service to the cause of good government. They will create discussion; and it is high time that the energies of our leading statesmen should be concentrated upon the great task before them. The equalisation of income and expenditure must be accomplished; and there must, at the same time, be a remission of taxes that press unfairly and prejudicially upon the industry or health of the people.

It is disgraceful to the civilization of Europe that all its chief States should have acted, and should continue to act, upon principles of financial extravagance, which would entail shame and ruin on private individuals. Great Britain has long been an offender, we will not say against common honesty, but certainly against ordinary prudence; and the adjustment long postponed must come sooner or later. States, like individuals, must set their houses in order, or pay the penalty; for financial difficulties are of a kind that will not be trifled with for ever. The day of reckoning may be procrastinated and re-procrastinated, but it will come at last—all the more gloomily and heavily from the delay. In a time of war, it was impossible to meet our difficulties without contracting debts; but in a time of peace, it is not creditable to our national character that we should have added to our liabilities, and have gone on from year to year increasing expenditure, when we ought to have diminished it; shutting our eyes against unpleasant realities, and trusting to the chapter of accidents to "make both ends meet." There is, however, a fair prospect that the matter will be taken in hand seriously as soon as Parliament shall re-assemble.

The affairs of the Papal States make little progress towards a satisfactory solution. The Pope remains at Gaëta, surrounded by his Cardinals, and almost daily visited by the King and the notabilities of Naples. Tranquillity prevails in Rome, and a Supreme Junta has entered upon the exercise of authority. The convocation of a Constituent Assembly, to determine the ultimate destination and form of Government of the country, is under consideration; but neither the Pope nor the Junta seems anxious to precipitate matters in the meantime. The spiritual authority of the Pope does not appear to have ceased at Rome, however much his temporal authority may have been denied and resisted. The Christmas mass, which was usually performed at midnight, in St. Peter's, was ordered by the Pope to be performed at daybreak, and it was so performed accordingly, in the presence of a large concourse of the Romans. In anticipation of hostilities with Austria, the Junta is busily engaged in organising an efficient force, and volunteers continue to pour in from all parts of the States. Prince Barberini has left Rome for Gaëta, to attempt a conciliation between the Pope and his people.

COURT AND HAUT TON.

On Saturday last her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert inspected a finished etching by Samuel Cousins, A.R.A., of the forthcoming engraving from Winterhalter's picture of the Royal Family, which was submitted by Mr. Moon.

On Sunday the Queen and his Royal Highness and the younger members of the Royal Family took an early walk in the Home-park. Her Majesty, the Prince, and ladies and gentlemen of the Royal household attended divine service in the Private Chapel. The service was performed and the sermon preached by the Hon. and Rev. C. L. Courtenay.

On Monday his Royal Highness, attended by Lord Byron, Sir Frederick Stovin, the Hon. Col. Phipps, and the Hon. Captain Gordon shot in Windsor Forest.

On Wednesday, Prince Albert, accompanied by the Duc de Nemours and Due d'Aumale, and attended by Colonel the Hon. C. B. Phipps and Captain the Hon. A. Gordon, went out shooting in Windsor Park.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL returned to his residence in Richmond Park on Saturday from Windsor Castle.

THE QUEEN'S NEW YEAR'S GIFTS AT WINDSOR.—The distribution of her Majesty's New year's gifts to 500 poor families of Windsor and Clewer took place on Monday morning in the presence of the Queen, Prince Albert, the juvenile branches of the Royal Family, and the ladies and gentlemen of the Royal household, in the new Riding School, in the Home-park. The interior of the spacious edifice (at the upper end of which, close to the Royal closet, were displayed the Royal standard of England, and a flag bearing the arms of Saxe Coburg and Gotha) was decorated with holly, as were also the tables ranged along the centre and sides of the Riding School, upon which were placed the various gifts to be presented to the poor of Windsor and Clewer. These consisted of 500 4lb. loaves, and 720 lb. of plum-pudding, supplied by Messrs. Tull and Phillips; 1300 lb. of beef, supplied by Messrs. Hughes and Adams; 161 blankets and three scarlet cloaks, supplied by Mr. Cayley; and 1222 yards of calico and 628 yards of flannel, supplied by Messrs. Bird and Allen. Her Majesty, accompanied by Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, and Princesses Alice and Helena, and attended by a numerous suite, left the Castle at 9 o'clock, by the York and Lancaster gateway, walking across the Home Park to the Riding School, and during the distribution stationed themselves in the Queen's closet, which commanded an uninterrupted view of the gratifying scene below. Among those who were invited to witness the interesting ceremony were—the Hon. and Rev. Dean of Windsor, Lady Charlotte Neville Grenville and the Misses Neville, the Rev. Isaac Gossell, the Rev. Stephen Hawtrey, the Rev. R. J. Gould, the Hon. and Rev. C. L. Courtenay, the Mayor of Windsor, and the magistrates of the borough, the visiting ladies of the district charities, &c. The recipients of the Royal bounty were stationed at the western end of the Riding School, where they awaited the arrival of the Court. The distribution occupied upwards of an hour; at the conclusion the Royal party returned across the Home Park to the Castle. Her Majesty looked remarkably well, and in excellent health.

SERENADE TO HER MAJESTY ON NEW YEAR'S MORNING.—At the early hour of half-past 6, the band of the 2nd Regiment of Life Guards assembled in the Home Park, and stationed themselves beneath the bed-room window of her Majesty in the Augusta Tower, serenading the Queen and the Prince Consort with the following music:—Reveille, by Walch; Quick Step, by Kuborn; and the National Anthem. Mr. Weitzell, the leader, and the whole of the band, afterwards partook of breakfast in the Castle.

LARGE CHEESE.—There has just been received, by the packet ship *Margaret Evans*, from the United States, an immense cheese, made from the milk of seven hundred cows; its weight is 1474 pounds; its circumference is 13 feet, thickness 18 inches: every inch thick will weigh three-quarters of a hundredweight. It was exhibited at the great fair at New York, and gained the highest premium: made by Messrs. Austin and Stone, Ainsburgh, Ashtabula county, Ohio: purchased by Mr. John Craft, 20, Philpot-lane, City.

FIRES IN LONDON DURING 1848.—On Monday Mr. Braithwood, the superintendent of the London fire-engine establishment, made his annual return of the fires which had occurred during the past year in the metropolitan district. The return includes every disaster that had taken place by fire up to twelve o'clock on Sunday night, from which it appears that the premises totally destroyed and considerably damaged were 296. The number of buildings slightly damaged by fire, water, &c., were 509, making a total number of fires of 805. The false alarms to which the engines and firemen had been called were 120. There had been 86 chimneys on fire to which the firemen had given their attendance. The total number of calls for assistance was 1011. There had been 10 fatal fires, and the number of lives lost were 2 firemen and 12 private individuals. The most disastrous fire were those at New-crane, Shadwell, where Piercy and Hancock, two of the brigade from Wellclose-square station, were crushed to death by the falling of the floors of a steam corn-mill, owing to the great weight of the machinery in the upper floors; that which recently occurred in Gray's inn-lane, where a husband and wife perished; the one in the White-chapel-road, where two persons were burned to death; and the extensive chicory mill in Mary-street, Whitechapel, where a man was killed by one of the walls falling upon him. The explosion in Albany-street, Regent's-park, is especially alluded to in the return, the different buildings damaged on that occasion being upwards of 100. The yearly average of fires in the metropolis for the last fifteen years is thus given, which shows a large increase in their number. Premises totally destroyed and considerably damaged, 216. Slightly damaged, 428. The total was, therefore, 644 fires; 75 false alarms, 95 chimneys; and the total of calls for fires and false alarms 814, showing an increase of 197 this year over the average of former years. During the same period seven firemen had lost their lives in the execution of their duty, and 239 private individuals had been burned to death. This return does not include the number of children who annually perish through their clothes taking fire, but merely those who have been known to be burned in the fires attended by the brigade.

LARGE PIKE.—Sir Lionel Eldred Smith, when trolling at Hampton Court, on the 27th ult., killed a pike which measured 4 ft. 6 inches in length, and weighed 21 pounds.

POSTSCRIPT.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN EDINBURGH.

One of the most destructive conflagrations that has occurred in Edinburgh for a considerable period took place early on Wednesday morning, at the station of the Caledonian Railway, in Lothian-road. The station consists of a range of three buildings, the one to the north being the temporary passenger shed, the one in the centre being the goods shed, and the one to the south being the passenger shed of the new station, which has been for some time in the course of construction. The fire originated in one of the trucks attached to the goods train from Carlisle, which reached the Edinburgh station shortly after two o'clock in the morning. The work of destruction was so rapid that it could not be properly ascertained whether the ignition of the truck arose from friction or from a spark from the engine; but it is conjectured that the latter was the more probable cause. The goods in the truck were of a light description, and were easily consumed; together with a large quantity of the same kind, in the shed, and in other trucks contiguous.

The burning was ultimately got under between six and seven o'clock; but not until almost the whole of the goods shed was destroyed, a great portion of the southern passenger one, and about one hundred feet of the northern one. The officials of the company estimate the damage at between £6000 and £7000; but it is said that this will not near cover it.

DETENTION OF THE MAILS BY THE SNOW.—On Friday (yesterday) morning several of the mail bags, brought by the northern mails, were detained in consequence of obstructions caused by a sudden and exceedingly dense fall of snow on the Trent Valley line. In many parts of the line the snow lay from two to three feet deep; and near Tamworth it was full four feet deep. Farther north, the fall had been very considerable. The bags were about an hour behind in consequence, but the delivery of letters was made about the usual time, so that the delay was not felt by the public.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

FRANCE.

On Thursday, at mid-day, the formal installation of General Jerome Bonaparte ex-King of Westphalia, as Governor of the Hôtel of the Invalides, took place. The Invalides were formed into a square, dressed out in their dress equipments. Among them were several who left their sick-beds to do honour to the brother of the Emperor.

After the ceremony of proclamation, the ex-King addressed the old soldiers in suitable terms. His speech was received with loud cheering. The new Governor, surrounded by the remains of the *grand armée*, then proceeded to the chapel, where prayers were said. He remained for a considerable time in the part of the church where the remains of the Emperor are deposited. He then visited the dining-room, sleeping-places, and infirmary.

The *Moniteur* publishes a decree of the President of the Republic, dated 2nd inst., appointing Vice-Admiral Cecile Ambassador of France to the Court of Great Britain; and M. Lagrene Plenipotentiary of the French Republic at the conferences about to be opened at Brussels, for the settlement of the Italian question.

ITALY.

ROME.—Our latest advices state that the Ministry, having promised the deputation of the clubs that the question of the Constituent Assembly should be decided on the 26th, and having pressed the adoption of that measure on the Chambers, on that day the latter refused to comply, to the great exasperation of the people; and the Ministers, in consequence, announced that, on the following day, they would of themselves promulgate the measure.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

THE EARLY CLOSING MOVEMENT.—Pursuant to directions issued by the Bishop of London, the metropolitan clergy are actively engaged within their respective districts, forming, for the instruction of young men released from business by the progress of the early closing movement—evening classes in Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Mechanics, Philosophy, Drawing, &c.; the instructors, chiefly clergymen, will give their services gratuitously. Rewards for proficiency, and honorary certificates for attendance, to be granted to the young men. Seventeen of these classes have already been established in the metropolis.

OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA AT AN INFANT ORPHAN ASYLUM.—During Tuesday and Wednesday, the members of the boards of guardians of the various metropolitan parishes and unions who farm out their pauper children at Mr. Drouet's Infant Poor Establishment at Tooting, were considerably alarmed at the receipt of information that cholera of a most fatal character had broken out amongst the children. Mr. Drouet has under his care from 1400 to 1500 children of both sexes farmed out to him, under the sanction of the Poor-Law Commissioners, from various metropolitan parishes and unions, for whom each parish pays 3s. 6d. per head per week. The children exhibited their usual healthy appearance up to Friday (last week), when, in some of the wards, several children were attacked with severe diarrhoea, and in two or three instances the cases assumed the form of Asiatic cholera, and were treated accordingly; but, in some few of the cases death ensued in the short space of three hours. Every hour brought new patients, and undoubted evidence manifesting itself that the epidemic was extending its baneful influence to others. Dr. Addison, of Guy's Hospital, was sent for, to consult with the resident medical officers. Up to that time fifty-seven cases and twelve deaths had occurred. Officers from the various parishes were summoned to Tooting, and the establishment was examined, when it was found that the drains of the buildings emptied themselves into an extensive ditch abutting on the ground, and which it was believed might have a prejudicial effect. The united opinion of all the medical gentlemen assembled concurred in stating the disease to have arisen from atmospheric poison, and not from the food the patients had taken. Information of the occurrence was forwarded to the Poor-Law Board, Somerset-house, as also to Mr. Carter, the Coroner for Surrey, but it is not known whether any official inquiry will be instituted.

MOUNT ST. BERNARD HOSPICE ASYLUM.—The half-yearly report of this institution, which is in connexion with the Leicester-square Soup Kitchen, states that, from the 16th of July to 26th December last, 80,000 rations of soup and bread have been distributed to indigent persons. Under the classes to which these wretched recipients belong are some curious entries. There are, of dissenting ministers, 2; surgeons, 2; one chemist; one retired officer; surveyors, 2; law-stationers, 2; one law-writer; clerks, 38; schoolmasters, 5; one governess; artists, 4; actors, 3; shopkeepers, 9; shop-assistants, 105; artisans of various trades, 9397 males, 610 females; butlers, 3; and other domestic servants, 121 males, 319 females; needlewomen, 478; railway labourers, 409; field labourers, 287; resident destitute poor, 7500 males, 11,074 females; wandering destitute poor, 283 males, 509 females; wives and children of artisans, 9920; sailors, 29; foreigners, 17 males, 5 females; and 1403 children of both sexes. In addition to the vast amount of relief afforded to the poor, forty-eight "street orderlies" belonging to the National Philanthropic Association have been provided for since September last. Not a few of these men have been taken from the workhouses in the metropolis, and the remainder destitute and forlorn wanderers have been furnished with work. In the Refuge belonging to these establishments, since its opening on the 20th of March to the 26th December, 1848, a clean bed by night, with a good supper and breakfast, has been afforded to 4540 men, 2221 women, and 117 children; in all, 6878 persons. Thirty-nine destitute young females, having good references to character, and having been for some time watched over by the matron, have been by her recommended to situations; whilst no less than 117 other female servants sheltered in this hospice, and evidently rescued from destitution and crime, have by their own exertions obtained situations, and subsequently visiting the matron, have returned thanks for the timely aid afforded them. It is also gratifying to state that 248 artisans of various callings, who have been inmates of this asylum, have, since they obtained employment, called to return thanks for the relief they received whilst destitute.

THE GALLERIES AT THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—The person who has hitherto rented the galleries from the Sheriffs at the rate of £21 per session, refused, at the last session, to pay that sum any longer, alleging that it exceeded the receipts. The Sheriffs took the opportunity thus offered in making the new regulations, which came into operation on Monday last, and now an uniform charge of 1s. each for admission is established. There have been occasions when half-a-guinea, and even a guinea, has been demanded. The receipts in the Old Court gallery on Monday amounted to 2s.; in the New Court gallery to 9s.; the Old Court gallery on Tuesday yielded 18s., and on Thursday £2 10s. The money-takers receive 7s. a day.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN THE CITY PRISONS.—On New Year's Day, by the order and gift of the Lord Mayor, Sir James Duke, M.P., the prisoners confined for debt in Whitecross-street Prison, to the number of 200, received a gratuity in the substantial shape of, to each prisoner, 1 lb. of beef, 1 lb. of potatoes, 1 lb. of bread, and 1 pint of porter, in addition to which there were several other minor gifts from several of the civic companies and others, which are annually distributed, at the discretion of the Governor, among the poorer class of prisoners. In Newgate, the Comptier, and other City prisons, a similar allowance of beef, bread, and potatoes was distributed to each prisoner—the gift of the Lord Mayor, the distribution on Christmas Day being at the expense of the Sheriffs, Alderman Finnis and J. G. Goodhart, Esq. The City prisons are the only criminal prisons in the metropolis where any departure from the ordinary allowance is permitted either on Christmas or New Year's Day.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, DEC. 30.—The number of births registered during the above week was 1458, of which 733 were males and 725 females, being 63 more than the births of the preceding week. The deaths registered were 1403 in number, being 55 less than the births, and 249 more than the weekly average. This excess appears large, but it must be remembered that the number refers to deaths registered. The excess is only to a slight extent produced by increased mortality; it is chiefly due to an accumulation of coroners' cases, many of which occurred in former weeks, but were not registered till the end of the quarter. Scarletina (the mortality from which is double the average) and typhus continue to be the only epidemics which prevail to an excessive degree. In the above table, coroners' cases fall principally under violent and sudden deaths.

LARGE PIKE.—Sir Lionel Eldred Smith, when trolling at Hampton Court, on the 27th ult., killed a pike which measured 4 ft. 6 inches in length, and weighed 21 pounds.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS RECENTLY DECEASED.

EDWARD, EARL OF OXFORD AND MORTIMER.

This venerable nobleman, who had nearly completed his 76th year, was son of the Hon. and Right Rev. John Harley, Bishop of Hereford, and succeeded, on the decease of his uncle, in 1790, to the family honours, which were originally conferred on the celebrated statesman, Robert Harley, in 1711. That distinguished personage, who acted so prominent a part in the political struggles of his time, is immortalised by Pope:—

A soul supreme, in each hard instance tried,
Above all pain all anger, and all pride;
The rage of power, the blast of public breath,
The lust of lucre and the dread of death.

Edward, fifth Earl, whose death we regret, was born 20th February, 1773; and married, 3rd March, 1794, Jane Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. James Scott, by which lady (who died 20th November, 1824) he leaves one surviving son, Alfred, now Earl of Oxford and Mortimer; and four daughters, the eldest of whom, Jane, is married to Lord Langdale.

GEORGE, EARL OF AUCKLAND.

The last twelve months have proved fatal to some of the most distinguished members of the Whig party. Lord Melbourne, Charles Butler, and the lamented nobleman whose death we now record, have left a void which will not soon be filled up. All were, independently of the elevated position they attained to in politics, remarkable for their kindness of heart, and the universal esteem and regard in which they were held.

George Eden, Earl of Auckland, was born 20th August, 1784, the second son of William, first Lord Auckland, by Eleanor his wife, sister of the late Earl of Minto. In 1809 he was called to the Bar by the Society of Lincoln's-inn; but becoming in consequence of the death of his elder brother, he abandoned the forensic for the political title, by the death of his father he succeeded his father as Baron Auckland. In 1830, on the formation of Lord Grey's Cabinet, his Lordship took office as President of the Board of Trade.

In 1834 he became, for the brief interval of four months, First Lord of the Admiralty; in 1835 he assumed the important post of Governor-General of India; and, in 1846, he returned to his former office as head of the Admiralty Board, the duties of which he discharged with a degree of ability that has commanded universal approbation. His Lordship's death occurred most suddenly. On Saturday last, while shooting at Lord Ashburton's, he was seized with a paralytic attack, which terminated fatally on the morning of Monday. "The Earl of Auckland," says a distinguished contemporary, "though summoned unexpectedly, descends to the tomb, if not full of age, at least having acquired a competent share of honour; and, though he leaves no son to inherit his Earldom, yet a numerous and attached circle of friends may regard the degree of fame which he had acquired with just complacency, and may refer to his unspotted integrity with unqualified and honourable pride."

His Lordship never married, and is succeeded in the barony of Auckland (the earldom expires) by his brother, Robert John, Bishop of Sodor and Man, who is married, and has a large family.

ALDERMAN JOHNSON.

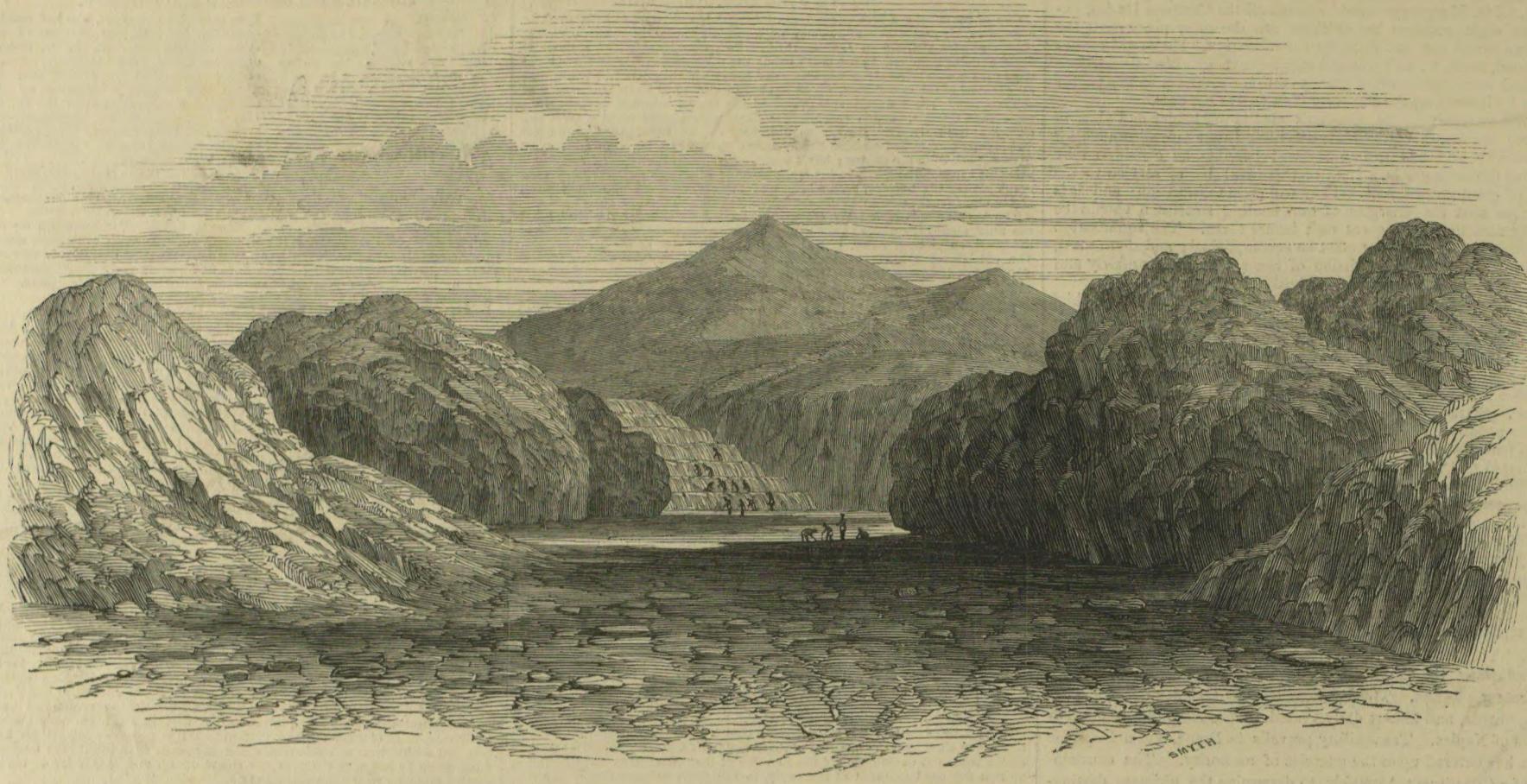
THE death of this worthy Alderman occurred on the 30th ult., at his residence at Millbank, after an illness of some months' duration. Early in life Mr. Johnson was extensively engaged as a paviour, and he subsequently inherited from his father a considerable fortune, which he greatly increased by his contract for the celebrated Breakwater at Plymouth and other successful speculations. In 1836 he served as Sheriff of London; in 1839 was elected Alderman of Dowgate Ward; and in 1845 filled the Civic Chair, maintaining during his Mayoralty its dignity and hospitality in a state of almost unrivalled splendour. Ibrahim Pacha was one of the many distinguished guests who honoured him with his presence at the civic festive board.

SIR AUGUSTUS FREDERICK D'ESTE, K.C.H.

SIR AUGUSTUS died last week. He was son of H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, by the Lady Augusta Murray, daughter of the fourth Earl of Dunmore, whom his Royal Highness married at Rome on the 4th April, 1793, and subsequently in London on the 5th of the following December. The contract was, however, declared null and void by the Arches Court; and a recent claim preferred by Sir Augustus D'Este to his father's honours was rejected by the House of Lords. Sir Augustus was born in 1794. At an early age he entered the army as Lieutenant in the Royal Fusiliers, and served in America, taking part in the attack upon New Orleans, and acting as Aide-de-Camp to Sir John Lambert. He became successively Captain in the 9th Lancers, Major of the 4th Royal Irish Dragoons, and full Colonel in the Army. He was also Deputy-Ranger of St. James's and Hyde Parks. He never married. His only sister, Augusta, is wife of the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Wilde, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

WELCH SCHOOLS.—A very numerously signed petition has been addressed to the Lords of the Committee of the Council of



GOLD WASHING.

THE recent discovery of vast deposits of gold in Upper California, with the latest intelligence received by Wednesday's mail from the United States, will be found elsewhere in our present Number. Our object, in this place, is to furnish the reader with correct information as to the mode adopted in washing for gold in other countries—in Brazil, for example; and this we find very minutely described in Mr. Mawe's valuable "Travels in the Interior of Brazil, particularly in the Gold and Diamond Districts of that Country." Mr. Mawe travelled by authority of the Prince Regent of Portugal, and thus enjoyed great facilities for his researches, notwithstanding he, in some instances, endured great hardships. His extensive acquaintance with mineralogy, and his practical knowledge of the science, upon which he has written and published some truly valuable works, fitted our traveller especially for these investigations: and the integrity of his narrative of adventures has been invariably accredited. The first illustration we have selected is a View of a Gold Washing at Jaragua, near Saint Paul's, in the Gold District. These mines of Jaragua were the first discovered in the country; and they were famed for the immense treasures they produced nearly two centuries since, when, at the ports of Santos and St. Vincent, whence the gold was

ground is cut in steps, each twenty or thirty feet wide, two or three broad, and about one deep. Near the bottom a trench is cut to the depth of two or three feet. On each step stand six or eight negroes, who, as the water flows gently from above, keep the earth continually in motion with shovels, until the whole is reduced to liquid mud, and washed below. The particles of gold contained in this earth descend to the trench, where, by reason of their specific gravity, they quickly precipitate. Workmen are continually employed at the trench to remove the stones, and clear away the surface, which operation is much assisted by the current of water which falls into it.

cious metal, separating from the inferior and lighter substances, settles to the bottom and sides of the vessel. They then rinse their bowls in a larger vessel of clear water, leaving the gold in it, and begin again.

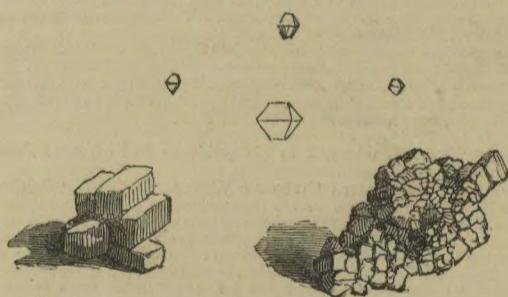
"The washing of each bowl-full occupies from five to eight or nine minutes: the gold produced is extremely variable in quantity and the size of its particles—some of which are so minute, that they float, while others are found as large as peas, and not unfrequently much larger. This operation is superintended by overseers, as the result is of considerable importance.

"When the whole is finished, the gold is borne home to be dried, and at a convenient time is taken to the permutation office, where it is weighed, and a fifth is reserved for the Prince. The remainder is smelted by fusion with mercury, cast into ingots, assayed, and stamped according to its intrinsic value—a certificate of which is given with it; after a copy of that instrument has been duly entered at the Mint Office, the ingots circulate as specie."

The second illustration shows more distinctly this mode of washing with the bowls, or *gamellas*; while the first scene is that of the "Washing," as the locality is technically termed.

SPECIMENS OF GOLD.

We are indebted for the accompanying Illustrations of the conditions in which gold is found to Mr. Tennant, Professor of Mineralogy in King's College, London, who has obligingly placed at the service of our Artist the series of specimens whence these Engravings have been carefully copied.



CRYSTALS OF GOLD.

Rounded water-worn pebble of gold with quartz, weighing 9 oz. 14 dwts.; it contains upwards of six ounces of gold. Brazils. (Stowe collection, No. 2724). Foliated gold with quartz, from Mexico. (Stowe collection, No. 2727).

Flat grains and particles of gold, separated from the alluvial soil by washing, commonly termed "gold dust" from the west coast of South America.

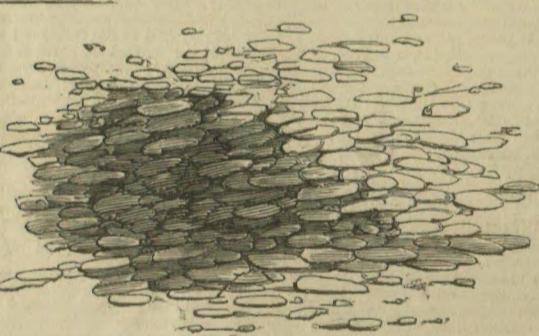
Crystals of gold, brought by the late Mr. Mawe from Brazil. Detached octahedron (2720 of Stowe collection), from Transylvania.

Three of these specimens were in the Mineralogical Collection at Stowe, where they were purchased by Mr. Tennant. Some of the crystals were brought by Mr. Mawe from Villo do Principe: he says, "At a washing about six leagues distant, a lump of gold was found of several pounds weight." From the same place Mr. Mawe procured some above two ounces, and obtained the large crystals, one of which is considered unique.

CHARACTERS OF GOLD.

Mr. Tennant has also favoured us with the following notes on substances resembling gold in appearance; viz. iron and copper pyrites, and mica. Gold differs from them in the following particulars:—

1. In specific gravity: that of gold being seventeen times greater than water, that of iron pyrites 7.5 (or $\frac{7}{3}$), of copper pyrites 4.3, and of mica 3.
2. Gold may be cut with a knife like lead, may be bent and beat out into very thin leaves; but iron pyrites cannot be cut or even scratched with a knife; copper pyrites is brittle; mica is foliated and very elastic.



GOLD DUST.

shipped for Europe, this district was regarded as the Peru of Brazil. Mr. Mawe thus describes the modes of Washing:—

"The face of the country is uneven and rather mountainous. The rock, where it is exposed, appears to be primitive granite, inclining to gneiss, with a portion of hornblende, and frequently mica. The soil is red, and remarkably ferruginous, in many places apparently of great depth. The gold lies, for the most part, in a stratum of rounded pebbles and gravel, called *cascalho*, immediately incumbent on the solid rock. In the valleys, where there is water, occur frequent excavations made by the gold-washers, to a considerable extent, some of them fifty or a hundred feet wide, and eighteen or twenty feet deep. On many of the hills, where water can be collected for washing, particles of gold are found in the soil little deeper than the roots of the grass.

"The mode of working these mines, more fitly to be denominated *washings*, is simple, and may be easily explained.

"Suppose a loose, gravel-like stratum of rounded quartzose pebbles and adventitious matter incumbent on granite, and covered by earthy matter of variable thickness. Where water of sufficiently high level can be commanded, the

"After five days' waiting, the precipitation in the trench is carried to some convenient stream, to undergo a second clearance. For this purpose, wooden bowls are provided, of a funnel shape, about two feet wide at the mouth, and five or six inches deep, called *gamellas*. Each workman, standing in the stream, takes into his bowl five or six pounds weight of the sediment, which generally consists of heavy matter, such as oxide of iron, pyrites, ferruginous quartz, &c., of a dark carbonaceous hue. They admit certain quantities of water into the bowls, which they move about so dexterously, that the pre-



WASHING FOR GOLD.



ROUNDED WATER-WORN PEBBLE OF GOLD WITH QUARTZ.

1. Under the action of the blowpipe gold retains its colour, but copper pyrite, and iron pyrites instantly lose it; the latter, also, becomes magnetic.
4. Gold is also not acted upon by nitric, muriatic, or sulphuric acid singly; but when the two former are combined it is then soluble. If any of the other three minerals be reduced to powder, either of these acids will readily act upon them.

Next week, we shall resume our Illustration with Views in Upper California, where the gold deposits have just been discovered.



OLD STYLE—THE MAIL COACH.—FROM A PICTURE BY HENDERSON.

THE MAIL COACHES.

O LUXURY of travel! joy refined!
To fly, steam-harness'd, in the ponderous train
And feel the victory of mighty mind
O'er space and time, for uses not in vain!
Yet ever in this world must loss and gain
Balance each other. Is it speed we prize?
"Tis edged with danger, equipoised by pain
And aids our business but to cheat our eyes.
Th' unsocial Rail affords no varied pleasure
Like yours, ye coaches of a former day:

Apt for our haste, delightful for our leisure,
We miss the cantering team, the winding way,
The road-side halt, the post-horn's well-known air,
The inns, the gaping towns, and all the landscape fair.

THE ARRIVING TRAIN.

(From "Legends of the Isles and other Poems," by Charles Mackay.)

BEHOLD, smoke-panoplied, the wond'rous car,
Strong and impetuous, but obedient still;
Behold it comes, loud panting, from afar,

As if it lived, and of its own fierce will
Ran a free race with wild winds blowing shrill!
Fire-bowell'd, iron-ribb'd, of giant length,
Snake-like it comes exulting in its strength,
The pride of art—the paragon of skill,
Triumph of mind! what hand thy bound shall mark?
Lo! through the curtain of the coming time,
Seen looming palpably 'mid cloud and dark,
Yet other triumphs, more than this sublime,
Rise numerous on the far-seeing ken
Of those who watch, and hope the good of men. C. M.



JOSEPH L. WILLIAMS.

NEW STYLE—THE MAIL TRAIN.

COUNTRY NEWS.

ROBBERY OF THE MAILS ON THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

A series of robberies of the most extraordinary and extensive character were perpetrated on the up and down mails traversing the Great Western Railway during the night of Monday last.

The up mail leaving Plymouth at 6.35 P.M., and Exeter at 9 P.M., on Monday, arrived at Bridgewater at its usual hour—half-past ten o'clock. At this station various bags of letters which had accumulated in the post-office during the trip were, in accordance with the usual custom of the guard, placed in a tender immediately at the rear of the post-office, and securely locked up. The train which, in addition to the post-office and tender, consisted of about six or seven first and second class carriages, left Bridgewater in due course and proceeded on its journey to Bristol; the run between these two places being timed to occupy one hour and ten minutes, without stoppage at any station. On the arrival of the train at Bristol shortly before midnight, the guard went to the tender in the rear of the post-office, in order to deliver the Bristol bags, when he discovered that all the bags had been more or less tampered with, some being cut open, and others having the seals broken and strings untied. A very cursory examination of their contents satisfied him that all the money and registered letters, as well as the bankers' parcels, had been abstracted, and without a moment's loss of time he communicated, first, with the two travelling post-office clerks accompanying the mail, and subsequently with the post-office authorities at Bristol.

The discovery, of course, occasioned extreme consternation among the officials. The guard was quite positive the bags were safe when the train left Bridgewater, and no stoppage had taken place between that town and the city of Bristol; it was self-evident that the robbery must have been effected by some parties travelling by the train, and while it was in motion. After a few moments' consultation, it was resolved to send the metropolitan bags on to London in the state in which the guard had discovered them; and accordingly the train left Bristol on its upward journey after a very short delay.

On reaching town at an early hour on Tuesday morning the guard proceeded to the Post-office, in St. Martin's-le-Grand, and made a report of the circumstances above detailed. The various bags were immediately subjected to examination, when it was found that not only had the whole of the registered letters and bankers' parcels been abstracted, but in some cases the "bills" on which all registered letters and valuable parcels are entered were also missing, so that it is at present impossible to say how far the plunder has extended. As a precautionary measure, information was forwarded by the Post-office authorities to the various City banking-houses, so that a check might be put upon the disposal of the contents of the stolen letters. At the same time active measures were taken in order to obtain a clue to the depredators; and in the course of the morning Mr. Seymour Clarke, superintendent of the Great Western Railway, in company with two or three officials of the Post-office, left Paddington for Bristol, in order to investigate the affair.

In the afternoon, and while Colonel Maberly was engaged, with several of his officers, on matters connected with the above affair, information reached town of a second robbery—precisely similar in character—perpetrated on the down mail, which left London at 8.55, P.M., on the same evening. In this case, the bags deposited in the tender were perfectly safe on the arrival of the train at Bristol, at a quarter past one, A.M. On the tender being opened at Bridgewater, a scene similar to that previously observed at Bristol presented itself. All the bags were more or less mutilated and disturbed, and the more valuable contents abstracted therefrom. Happily, in this instance, the vigilance of the parties in charge of the train resulted in the capture of the supposed thieves; and there seems great reason to believe that the persons who effected the first robbery were also the perpetrators of the second.

The parties alluded to are two men of respectable appearance, both of whom travelled in a first-class carriage, occupying the next compartment to the Post-office tender. The Great Western carriages have a division in the centre, by which means each compartment is made to form a distinct carriage, as it were. In one side of this compartment, next the down platform, a gentleman, who slept throughout the journey, and is known to be a respectable solicitor, was seated alone. The other side was occupied by the two individuals in question, who had taken care to draw down the blinds of the door of the compartment. Their implication in the affair is placed beyond all manner of doubt by the discovery of several registered letters and money parcels in the carriage in which they rode. Immediately upon their apprehension, they were conveyed to Exeter, to be brought up for examination before the magistrates.

The presumption now entertained by those best calculated to form an opinion is that both robberies were effected in the same manner, viz., by parties who rode in a first-class carriage first contriving to occupy the next compartment to the post-office tender, and subsequently, when the train was in motion, at the imminent risk of their lives, leaving their carriage and stepping at once on to the tender, and then traversing the narrow ledge running along that carriage until they came to the door, which there can be little doubt they were previously prepared to unlock. This done, there would be little difficulty to overcome. The tender is always well lighted by a lamp suspended from the centre of the roof, and having once obtained entrance, an expert thief would speedily abstract the booty. In addition to the letters found, a woolstapler's hook—which it is supposed was used by the thieves to hang on to the tender, when leaving the first-class carriage—was also discovered. The ledge along which they must have walked to obtain entrance to the tender is only an inch and a half wide. There were also discovered two black masks in one of the pockets of the carriage, and a pair of false moustachios upon one of the two parties apprehended.

The impudence of the second robbery, immediately following upon the first, is incomprehensible. It can only be described as one of those short-sighted acts by which offenders against the law very often bring themselves within its meshes. Had the thieves known, as is the fact, that the same two post-office clerks who travel with the up mail to Bristol return with the down mail to Bridgewater, probably they would have been content with their first plunder, and escaped for some time, at least, with impunity.

Doubtless, in future, if the bags from the Post-office must continue to be placed in a tender, a guard will be appointed to travel with them.

EXAMINATION OF THE SUPPOSED ROBBERS.—At the Guildhall, Exeter, the parties against whom suspicion rests were brought before the magistrates on Tuesday, and the evidence of Mr. Barlow, one of the Directors of the Great Western Company, who was a passenger from London to Exeter in the same train with the prisoners, of the guards, and of other railway officers, establishing the facts above mentioned, was received.—One of the prisoners refused to give his name, and is quite unknown; the other is named Henry Poole, and was for some time in the service of the Great Western Railway Company as a guard.—They were remanded until Saturday (this day).

None of the property plundered from the up-mail has yet been found. One of the registered letters stolen from this mail, it is stated, contained £4000; and the loss, so far as at present known, unquestionably amounts to fifty times that sum. Colonel Maberly, the Secretary of the Post-Office, and Mr. Peacock, the Post-office solicitor, are engaged in arranging plans for the full development of the whole affair.

In another part of the paper will be found an engraving which represents a mail-train as it appears on the Great Western Railway, and its contrast, the old "mail-coach" of other days.

A MELODRAMATIC SMUGGLER.—A few days ago, at the Plymouth police court, Francois Mellendring, a Frenchman, was charged with smuggling half a gallon of French brandy. One of the customs' officers who was standing on the quay the night before, while the defendant and four others came on shore, suspecting Mellendring, he seized him; whereupon, with a melodramatic start, he plunged a knife into his bosom, and the "stream of life" gushed forth most copiously. The officer, fearing that the wound would be fatal, not to the Frenchman's life, but to his own seizure, tore open the waistcoat of his prisoner and found a bladder, which had been full of brandy, but now half emptied: it contained by the ruthless knife. The bladder was handed over to the tide-surveyor, who now produced it. A glass of the brandy was poured out, which was tasted by the court and others. The defendant looked at the glass, and stated, through an interpreter, that it did not look like his brandy, and requested the favour of tasting also. The glass was handed to him, and, with a smiling countenance, he placed it to his lips, but no sooner had it got there than the liquor disappeared with more than usual rapidity, much to the amusement of those present; and having finished it, he exclaimed, "Bon! bon! à mon estomac!" The defendant was fined 20s.

MR. BAILY'S STATUE OF CHIEF JUSTICE TINDAL AT CHELMSFORD.—The committee last week finally settled the arrangement with the artist by binding themselves to the payment of a certain amount, at the same time pledging themselves to assist in raising the remainder of the sum which is necessary to fairly remunerate Mr. Baily for the talent and labour bestowed upon this production. The statue is to be of bronze, three tons of the material, we understand, being used in the work, and will be placed on a pedestal of stone. Mr. Baily visited Chelmsford on Monday, and selected a site in front of the Shire Hall as most appropriate for the statue; but, as the soil belongs to the county, the sanction of the magistrates for a sufficient piece of ground will be applied for—a request, we have no doubt, they will readily accede to.

The Rev. W. J. Odgers has published a letter in the Plymouth papers, urging that the premises purchased by the Corporation at an expense of £600, now lying unoccupied and useless, should be applied to the purposes they were intended for, viz. wash-houses; and adduces the fact, that there are in Plymouth more than 11,000 persons who are living in single rooms, and who, for the want of such an institution, are obliged to wash, and in wet weather to dry, their clothes in the same room in which they cook, eat, and sleep.

AN EMIGRATION MARRIAGE.—A young woman, servant at Stonehouse, having become ill of typhus fever, was removed to the workhouse in Devonport, where, in a short time, she recovered, and having stated her wish to go to Australia, begged of the parish authorities the necessary sum of £2 12s. which must be paid to the Emigration Society. The request was complied with. Whilst in the company's office at Plymouth a few days ago, she was asked by a respectable individual if she intended to emigrate. On replying in the affirmative, he said, "I like your appearance; I'll marry you, if you have no objection." After some other remarks, he accompanied her to the lady's residence where she lived previous to her illness, and received an excellent character. He forthwith purchased the license, and they were married on Sunday last. She had a good outfit provided, and the £2 10s. from the parish authorities was respectfully declined.

LANGPORT.—**AN EAGLE SHOT.**—A large sea-eagle (*Haliaetus*), measuring seven feet from wing to wing, and weighing upwards of nine pounds, was shot, a few days since, whilst wading its rapid flight over a wood, in the neighbourhood of High Ham, Somersetshire, by Mr. William Thyer, of that place. The bird has been purchased by Edward Quenell, Esq., of the town, who intends giving it a place in his museum.

MUSIC.

LONDON WEDNESDAY CONCERTS.

The announcement of the name of Braham, in the seventh programme, would alone have sufficed to have attracted a large auditory to Exeter Hall; but, in addition to the great tenor—who for more than three-score years has been before the public—Sims Reeves, the tenor of the present epoch, was coupled with his famed predecessor; and thus two of the most distinguished singers this country can boast of—representing the past and the present schools—were heard in one evening. No wonder, then, the hall was filled to an overflow, and that the veteran amateurs of the ballad-stirring days, despite of cold and fog, came from their firesides to listen to their pet singer of yore; whilst the modern *dilettanti* were no less anxious to compare their tender tenor with the veteran Braham. When the latter, with firm step and erect form, approached steadily the square piano, on which he accompanied himself in Carter's well-known battle song, "Stand to your guns!" the cheering was deafening for some minutes. It is to the credit of the British public (derisive as the designation has become), that we never forget our old favourites—"Once a King, always a King." Braham soon proved that the fire of his youth was still in his veins; that his intellectual grasp was not in the slightest degree impaired; and that if the physical force of former days had been weakened by the inroads of the fell destroyer Time, the dramatic conception was yet supreme, and the power of exciting the feelings of his auditory was unabated. Enclosed in the war song, Braham, who had work to do during the night's scheme, which would have taken the fight out of many modern tenors, gave one of his own ballads, with a chasteness of style and sensitiveness of expression which no artist could display more severely than himself, when he was resolved to charm as well as to astonish.

In the second part, Braham and Sims Reeves appeared for their duo, "Gallop on gally," composed by the former for the opera of "Family Quarrels." The artistic duet was nobly and generously sustained: the best portions of Reeves's chest-notes came out richly and powerfully, whilst the veteran, with the utmost tact, reserving himself for a favourable point, suddenly burst upon the audience with one of those vocal outbreaks peculiarly his own, causing the listeners almost to spring, as it were, from their seats, at mingled admiration and astonishment at such a prodigious feat from a singer of nearly fourscore. Again was the encore overwhelming and irresistible. The crowning effort of Braham was in the "Bay of Biscay;" attended as this was with vocal vicissitudes, the conception and passion of the singer, and the energy of the actor—for Braham always acts this scene of sea-strife with the elements—were such, that, amidst peals of applause, he was compelled to repeat it.

The remainder of the concert, although not, in point of selection, up to the standard we should desire, contained many points of interest. Mr. W. H. Palmer, formerly a pupil of the Royal Academy of Music, played a piano-concerto with nice taste and execution; but, as a composition, little can be urged in its favour; and he would have done more wisely to have selected a work of Beethoven or Mendelssohn. Miss Kate Loder—who has earned deserved fame as a classical *pianiste*—performed, on this occasion, Wallace's "Cracoviennes"—a fantasia abounding in the modern digital displays of dexterity, over which Miss Loder proved her thorough mastery: her octave playing is brilliant; and her left hand is remarkably expert and strong. One of the greatest treats of the night was Vivier's delicious warbling of Schubert's serenade on the horn; the tone and sentiment imparted to this dreamy melody by Vivier, were irreproachable for truthfulness and heart-touching in effect.

The songs given by Miss Ransford, Miss Eliza Nelson, and Mrs. A. Newton were encored. A charming duo by Mendelssohn, as charmingly interpreted by the Misses Williams, was also similarly complimented; as also Mr. Reeves in John Barnett's ballad, "Canst thou love?" from the "Mountain Sylph," gleanings from which closed the concert. Mr. Whitworth, Mr. T. Williams, Mr. Leffler and Miss Poole were also included in the programme.

Braham is announced for the last time next Wednesday, at the eighth concert, to sing a new duo, by Lavenu, with Mr. Reeves.

MUSIC AT THE PALACE.—The selections of music performed by the Queen's private band contain many works which are quite unknown to our concert frequenters. Sainton, Day, Hill, and H. Chipp play frequently the finest chamber compositions.

MDLLE. LIND.—This charming vocalist sang at Liverpool on the 5th instant, at a concert in aid of one of the hospitals. On the 29th instant, she has consented to sing at Exeter Hall, for the benefit concert of Mr. Balfe; at which Lablache and Thalberg will appear. In the first week in February, Mdlle. Lind will sing gratuitously at a concert, to be given in the College Hall, Worcester, in aid of the Infirmary of that town. Mdlle. Lind offered her services on the occasion, on account of the disappointment experienced at her not being able to sing at the festival last September, to the funds of which she sent £50. It is expected that Mdlle. Lind will begin this season at Her Majesty's Theatre at an earlier period than last year. Mr. Lumley has been to Manchester, where Mdlle. Lind is on a visit, to make arrangements for that purpose.

MUSICAL EVENTS.—On Monday next, Handel's "Judas Maccabaeus" will be performed at Exeter Hall, by the Sacred Harmonic Society, conducted by Costa: the vocalists will be Miss Birch, the Misses Williams, Messrs. Reeves, Williams, and Phillips.—M. Julian's band, with Mdlle. Nissen as vocalist, is now in Dublin.—The French Opera at the St. James's Theatre is to commence on Monday week.—Mr. Macfarren, the composer, has returned to London from the United States.—Mr. Willy and Mr. Blagrove have been placed on the court of assistants of the Royal Society of Musicians; Mr. Rovedino on the concert committee, in place of François Cramer, deceased; and Messrs. Goss, Cubitt, and Jarrett, on the committee of accounts; Mr. Parry is hon. treasurer. On the books there are now 35 widows, 15 children, and nine aged members. £24547s. 8d. were appropriated this year out of the funds.—Miss Anne Romer, cousin of the Miss Romer, and brother of Mr. Travers, commenced on Thursday evening a series of six *séances musicales* at her residence, 19, Newman-street. Miss Anne Romer has a very beautiful voice, which only requires good opportunities to be heard: she was prematurely brought out at the Princess' Theatre; but, as a concert singer, she will take a good position.—A series of concerts will be commenced on Monday next at the Whittington Club, at which our best native singers will be heard.

FOREIGN MUSICAL NEWS.—Nothing has been definitely arranged as to the lesseehip of the Italian Opera in Paris. Just as M. de Malleville and the Commission of the Theatres were disposed to accept Roncoul's propositions, the former resigned, and M. Léon Faucher, who is more of a political economist than a musical amateur, has been nominated Minister of Interior in M. de Malleville's place.—A tenor having been found for the Théâtre de la Nation, in A. M. Espinasse, Meyerbeer's "Huguenots" will be performed, in a few days, for his *début* as Raoul; but more particularly for the last appearance of Madame Viardot at the French Grand Opera, as *Valentine*, a part which she has sung in German at Berlin, and in Italian at the Royal Italian Opera, London. The rehearsals for the "Prophète" were continued by Meyerbeer with the greatest zeal and activity; and it was expected to be ready at the end of March.—Mdlle. Neodot, who made her *début* at Covent-Garden Theatre in 1847, is now dancing at the National Opera at Paris with success.—Prince Louis Napoleon has taken boxes at the Grand Opera (Théâtre de la Nation), at the Opéra Comique, and at the Théâtre Français.—Bordas, the tenor, late of the Paris Italian Opera, has been engaged for Her Majesty's Theatre for this season.—Two new operas have been produced in Berlin—one in German, called "The Red Mantle," by Herr Wurst, at the Royal Theatre; and the other in Italian, at the Königstadt, entitled "Colombo," by Signor Barbieri. The former was a failure; the latter moderately successful, thanks to the singing of Signora Fodor.—Spohr, according to the accounts from Leipzig, has not been successful in his oratorio of "The Last Judgment," and in a new symphony. The former work, which has met with decided success in England, was executed on the 12th ult., and the symphony at the tenth subscription concert.—Schiller's poem, "The Artistes," had been set to music by Bartholdy.

CURIOS ANCIENT COIN.—Among the many objects of interest and antiquity in the possession of M. Frost, Esq., Baslow, are four pieces of ancient coin, consisting of a one shilling piece, two sixpenny, and one threepenny piece, all of silver, dated 1573, and bearing an impression of Queen Elizabeth. The whole of the above was found in Baslow churhyard, by Mr. W. Marples, sexton, in digging a grave, five feet below the surface. Whether it had been buried according to the ancient custom as "Peter's pence," or by what means it came there is, of course, a matter of conjecture.—*Sheffield Times*.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARIS AND LONDON.—The *National* this week published an article on the postal arrangement between London and Paris, in which it complains that the object of the recent visit of the Marquis de Cléracade to Paris has been misrepresented in the English journals. The following is the statement given by that journal:—"The Amiens and Boulogne Railway being opened, was a shorter mode of communication than that by Calais. Taking advantage of this new facility, it was agreed between the two Governments:—1. That the post should leave twice a day, on the French side alternately from Boulogne and Calais, and on the English side from Dover. 2. That the transport should be effected as follows:—That from Calais to Dover going and returning by the French boats; that of Boulogne and Dover to and from the English boats. This arrangement was to be in force for one year; and at the expiration of that time might be continued or modified for another year. Unfortunately, no mention was made of the time at which notice of the discontinuance of the arrangement was to be given on either side. A few days before the expiration of the year, the English Government gave notice that from the 1st of January, or, at latest, the 15th, the Boulogne line of boats would be discontinued, so that we could make no arrangements, for want of timely notice, and henceforward it will be impossible to continue the correspondence by way of Boulogne. Let it not be supposed that we defend this line; we know very well that it is 104 kilometres shorter than that of Calais, the sea passage is longer. We are not unaware that the port of Boulogne has less secure shelter and a less easy entrance than that of Calais. But we could have wished that a clause had been inserted requiring a greater length of notice; we could then have weighed the advantages and disadvantages of a line which will now doubtless be abandoned. To resume. The Marquis de Cléracade did not come to France to demand the revision of the treaty of 1843. He came to confer on the immediate cessation of the Boulogne boats. In this the English Government is justified, it is true; but it should not have had this right if the abuse of it could have been foreseen."

LANGPORT.—**AN EAGLE SHOT.**—A large sea-eagle (*Haliaetus*), measuring seven feet from wing to wing, and weighing upwards of nine pounds, was shot, a few days since, whilst wading its rapid flight over a wood, in the neighbourhood of High Ham, Somersetshire, by Mr. William Thyer, of that place. The bird has been purchased by Edward Quenell, Esq., of the town, who intends giving it a place in his museum.

THE THEATRES.

The Christmas pieces are all now in full play; the houses are nightly crowded; and the bills remain as when we last wrote. The tricks have got into good working order, and change when wanted into what is intended. The fairies no longer inhabit regions of rebellious clouds, which will not open and allow them to influence mortal fortunes. And the knocks and bumps, shocks and thumps—in the giving and receiving of which the *Clown* and *Pantaloons* pass their lives—are exchanged with desperate rapidity.

Taken altogether, the Christmas pieces are pronounced to be very good—Pantomimes above the usual average, possibly from the reason that the events of the past exciting year have furnished abundance of subject-matter for the jokes and practical allusions.

We last week omitted to mention the harlequinade at the *QUEEN'S* Theatre, which is founded on the old story of "The Maid and the Magpie." We do so now, principally to speak of Mr. Lynch as a *Pantaloons* of the good old school. We have seen nobody like him in depicting feeble mischief and senility. Mr. Harrison is an active *Clown*, and makes plenty of fun. An excellent arrangement in the management of this theatre, which might be copied with good effect, is the establishment of a species of beadle, who pervades the house generally with a cane, which he raps against the panels of the boxes when the boys in the gallery are too noisy; and at times he does not hesitate to ascend to the regions of the gods, and deal sundry whacks upon the shoulders of the most turbulent. We suppose he is the only living instance of a single individual stopping an encore of "Hot Codlins" on a Boxing Night, because it was too late. But this feat he accomplished.

OLYMPIC.

A novelty, in the shape of a one-act serious drama, written by Mr. Albert Smith, was produced at this theatre on Thursday evening, and with perfect success. It is founded on a tale called "A Legend of Antwerp," which appeared a few months back in *Blackwood's Magazine*. Considerable liberties have, however, been taken with the *denouement*, to get it into a dramatic form; and the alterations, which are confined to the last scene—that of the execution on the Place—are so made as to bring the interest up to a startling point immediately before the fall of the curtain. Mr. Leigh Murray, as the hereditary son of the headman, upon whom the odious office descends by birth, played with more than his usual force and impressing truthfulness. His agony at the thought of his loathsome office, coupled with his love for his young townswoman, was admirably portrayed.

The heroine, *Bertha*, was performed by a *debutante*, a Miss de Burgh, under which name, we believe, the daughter of a gentleman of eminence in the literary world, now deceased, has made her first appearance. The young lady achieved a perfect success. To considerable personal attractions she adds great intelligence, and a very touching and gentle voice; altogether, with very little study, she has a bright prospect in the serious melodramatic line, before her.

Mr. Sterling made a great effect as the old headman. His "make up" was excellent, and his scene with his despairing son finely played. Mr. Compton invested a small part of a painter of church images with great humour, and was a signal for laughter whenever he appeared. The applause at the end was loud and general; the principal performers were called for, and the success of the drama entirely established. The last scene, by Mr. Roberts, was exceedingly effective.

IRELAND.

MR. DUFFY'S TRIAL.

On Friday (se'nnight) the arguments on the demurrer were brought to a close, by the reply of the Attorney-General, who contended that the facts charged having been admitted by the demurrer, the judgment of the court should be final, without the intervention of a jury, as in a civil case or a charge of misde-meanor. The

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The Consolidated Board of Excise, Stamps, and Taxes, is to consist of the following:—Chairman, John Wood, Esq.; Deputy-Chairman, John Thornton, Esq.; Commissioners: Hart Davis, Esq.; Thomas Harrison, Esq.; Henry T. Stephenson, Esq.; Charles John Herries, Esq.; Charles P. Rushworth, Esq.; Charles Pressly, Esq.; Alfred Montgomery, Esq.

The Monmouthshire Railway and Canal Company have recently negotiated a loan of £45,000 for the accomplishment of their useful undertaking, the Newport and Pontypool Railway; and the operations upon the line will be vigorously resumed in a short time.

Llandillo Bridge, Carmarthenshire, a noble structure, is completed. The bridge, which is the third largest in the kingdom, being nearly 150 feet span, is built principally of black marble, at an expense of about £18,000. Gloucester Bridge cost £60,000 and Chester £40,000.

Some time since, a person at Chelmsford, more ingenious than scrupulous, paid a tradesman for some goods by a bill at two months; but on presenting it at the expiration of that period, the owner found it was payable two months after death instead of after date.

It is stated on good authority that Mr. Amedroz, the venerable Chief Clerk at the Admiralty, having completed half a century's service, is about to retire from his arduous and responsible office.

Mr. Crowder, it would appear, is not to be allowed to walk over the course at the Liskeard Election. Lord John Manners, it is said, is to be nominated, and intends to contest the election. The writ has been issued, and the election will take place on Monday next.

The office of Clerk of the Peace for the City of Dublin has been conferred upon Robert Dickenson, solicitor, who held the office for some years jointly with the late Mr. George Archer.

Count Areze, Envoy of the King of Sardinia, has arrived at Paris to congratulate Prince Louis Bonaparte on his nomination to the Presidency. The King Charles Albert has appointed Count Uring as his representative at the Congress of Brussels on the Italian question.

The presents offered to their Majesties of Prussia, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their wedding-day, were exhibited to the public at Potsdam for some days preceding Christmas. They occupied a long gallery of the palace, and consisted of every variety of article, from the highest works of art to the offering of the humble workman. The exhibition was a striking proof of the respect and affection which the Prussian people feel for the august couple.

Lola Montez, who some time since caused so great a sensation in Bavaria—consequent on her elevation to the rank of Countess by the ex-King, arrived in London on Friday (last week).

On Saturday week, a male wild cat, measuring four feet from tail to snout, and weighing 9 lb., was taken in a vermin trap by the gamekeeper to Joseph Bushell, Esq., of Bulk, on that gentleman's estate in Lancashire.

As one of the superintendents at the general terminus of Perth was recently crossing the Scottish Midland line, an engine at great speed came up and struck him down. Strange to say, he was laid so flat between the rails, that the engine passed over him, without any of the wheels or underworks of the locomotive touching him. With the exception of his being severely cut on the face, and rendered for some time insensible from the shock, he sustained no other injury, and was able to go about his occupation the next day.

The President of the National Assembly of France has given orders for the execution of a portrait of the President of the Republic, which is to be placed in the Conference Chamber of the Palace of the Legislature.

A Paris caricature, just published, represents Louis Philippe receiving a kick from Lamartine, who is receiving one from Cavaignac, who is in turn kicked by Louis Napoleon; then comes a scroll—“To be continued.”

It is understood that a new commission is contemplated to inquire into the state of the law respecting the letting and management of ecclesiastical property, with a view to legislation on this important subject. The matters to be investigated are of themselves of a sufficiently extensive and complicated nature to require the deepest attention; and the persons selected for the task will not at all interfere with the duties or the construction of the Ecclesiastical Commission, but will be employed upon a field of labour and inquiry entirely distinct.

The treasurer of the county of Middlesex shows in his accounts the sums repaid by him to the churchwardens of the various parishes in the county of Middlesex, for expenses incurred by them in providing staves and other necessary articles for the use of the special constables, appointed under the 1st and 2nd William IV., in the month of April, 1848, when the peace of the metropolis was threatened to be disturbed by Chartist meetings held at Kennington-common and other places. The total of these sums is £1043 14s. 8d.

At a quarterly general court of the governors and subscribers of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, held on Monday night at Bloomsbury-place, Thomas Waring, Esq., in the chair, 12 boys were elected to fill the existing vacancies in the Institution, making up the full number of 70 who receive the benefit of the charity.

An Anti-oath Association has been formed at Edinburgh for the purpose of aiding with advice or otherwise any who may be imprisoned for conscientiously refusing to swear, and especially for using all constitutional means to effect such a change in the law as will assimilate it to that of the United States of America, by which an oath or affirmation is equally admissible—falsehood under either form being liable to the penalties of perjury.

We regret to learn that Viscount Melbourne has been again attacked by severe indisposition; his Lordship continues in a very unsettled state of health. Drs. Ferguson and Holland are in attendance on the noble Viscount.

On Monday, at a large meeting of gentlemen connected with various public offices in the City, held at the Pine-Apple Tavern, Hungerford-market, it was agreed to commence a subscription, for the purpose of presenting a substantial testimonial to Mr. Joseph Crawford, who was the originator of the cheap omnibus fares from Paddington to Hungerford-market.

An extraordinary case of self-destruction has just occurred at Berlin. The dead body of a man was found at daylight, by the constabulary, in a sitting position, on one of the benches in the Thier-Garten. From an examination of it, it appeared that the man must have placed a small packet of gunpowder in his mouth, ignited it, and thus blown his head to pieces.

There were four King's Scholarships established at the Royal Academy of Music in 1834 (two males and two females), two of whom go out by rotation at the end of two years, unless they be re-elected, as was the case lately.

“The Battle of Hexham,” a song made in the time of Edward the Fourth, and lately discovered among some ancient documents at Hexham, has just been reprinted in the old English style, with illuminated initials, at Newcastle. The quaint spelling of the period is preserved throughout, but, where necessary, an explanation is given in the margin.

The Piedmontese Envoys to the Brussels Congress on the affairs of Italy have arrived in Paris during the week.

In the year 1848, 11,073 emigrants only have left Antwerp for Transatlantic countries, whereas in 1847 the number was 16,750. This falling off is naturally attributed to the influence of recent political events.

Fourteen appointments to departmental Prefectures, in which are many well-known members of the Orleans party who had been displaced by the revolution of February, have been made by the New French Ministry.

The King of Belgium has conferred the Order of Leopold upon Capt. Jessen, who commanded the Belgian corvette *La Meuse* on the Portuguese coast; when the English vessel, the *Lady Kennaway*, was wrecked, on the 1st of November, 1847, and the passengers and crew (numbering twenty-six persons), who were on the point of perishing, were saved by Captain Jessen, at the peril of his own life.

The Government of France has a number of agents in this country purchasing horses suitable for troopers. One agent has bought several in the neighbourhood of Ipswich, and forwarded them for inspection with all possible despatch.

The Archbishop of Paris has issued a circular to his clergy, directing a collection to be made at the churches for the Pope.

M. Marrast has announced his determination not to present himself again as a candidate for the Presidency of the National Assembly of France.

Large importations of poultry are taking place from the Continent. The quality of the turkeys imported from France is reported to be excellent, although, generally speaking, not so large and fine as those produced in England.

The public are cautioned not to take £5 and £10 notes of the Bank of England without a previous careful inspection, as there are many forgeries in circulation. At Gravesend, no less than three £10 notes were detected last week as spurious, and have since been branded as forgeries by the Bank of England.

A burglary was committed on Sunday morning at the house of Mr. Josephs, a jeweller and watchmaker, near Zion Chapel, Waterloo-road. The family were aroused by some neighbours, who saw the shop-door open, and it was found that the whole of the stock had been stolen.

The Attorney-General has directed the proceedings against all the parties charged with offences in the New Forest to be abandoned. Mr. Bowles, the keeper, and other parties, who have been so long harassed by these proceedings, have been reinstated.

Twenty pounds were received as a donation to the poor-box fund of the Greenwich Police Court this week, from the Goldsmiths' Company, with a request that the same be acknowledged through the medium of the daily papers.

On Monday, a testimonial of respect was presented to Lieut. Gretton, R.N., superintendent of the passenger department of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, by the officers and servants of that department. The present consisted of a handsome silver tea and coffee service.

A recent ordonnance of the Neapolitan Government prescribes a quarantine of twenty-one days for persons and merchandise from London, Hull, Edinburgh, and Leith, and fourteen days from any other port in England.

The casualties of a bombardment are often strange enough. An English family, on returning to their house lately, at Messina, in Sicily, found the upper part ruined, and forty-one bombs and shells awaiting them. On lighting a fire in one of the rooms the smoke would not ascend, and on having the chimney examined, a shell was found in it which had not exploded.

There are one or two facts of which it may be proper to remind our readers at this season—namely, that the January dividends at the Bank are payable on the 8th; and that before the 8th fire insurance policies due at Christmas must be paid.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“Alpha,” “Azedres”—The contest between Captain Kennedy and Mr. Lowe has terminated, to the astonishment of everybody acquainted with the comparative strength of the competitors, and to none more than the winner, in the Captain's disfavour, the score at the end being:—Lowe, 7; Kennedy, 6; Drawn, 1. This unlooked-for result in no respect invalidates the gallant Captain's claim to be the better player (as, indeed, his opponent admits), since it still leaves him the conqueror in three matches out of four with the same party. We are not aware that any definitive arrangements have been made to bring about the “Chess Tournament” which “Alpha” mentions.

“G. S., ‘Douglas.’—It is curious, and pretty, too.

“W. G. W.”—Your solution in three moves is true enough. The Bishop, perhaps, should stand at Rook's 5th instead of Rook's 3d.

“M. U.” must be good enough to send a solution, before we can look at his Problem.

“A. G.”—The publication of “Le Palamède” was stopped by the French Revolution. We are happy to learn, however, that it is about to re-appear, under the able management and editorship of Mr. Kieseritzky, assisted by many of the first players in France and Germany.

“C. W. R.”—The solution of Enigma No. 402 is effected thus:—1. Kt checks.

2. Kt to Q 5th. 3. Kt to Q 4th. 4. Kt or B mates, according to Black's last move.

“J. R. S.”—We must trouble you to write out the position, not having the opportunity of always referring to back numbers.

“S. A. G.” Birmingham, is referred to the next number, or the next but one, of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, to that in which the diagram appeared, for the solution or correction of the Problem mentioned.

“Philochess.”—The very beautiful Engravings which we mentioned last week, from Frank Stone's pictures, “The Impending Mate” and “Mated,” are procurable, we are told, at the office of the Chess-Player's Chronicle, King William-street, Charing-cross, as well as of the publishers.

“T. C.”—We know nothing of the “double game of Chess.”

“T. W.” Alphington.—You are certainly mistaken in supposing No. 257 can be solved in three moves.

“G. S. S.” Liverpool.—Received, with many thanks.

“J. H.” Isle of Wight.—They are much too easy, even for beginners.

“Mirza.”—1. Both as regards the quantity and quality of his productions, Mr. Kling stands facile princeps among the constructors of ingenious Chess Problems. 2. Alexandre's stupendous work, called “The Beauties of Chess,” may be got through any foreign bookseller.

“W. R. T.”—1. The solution of Problem No. 257 is given in the present Number. 2. With respect to No. 258 you are quite right.

Solutions by “S. A. G.” “C. P.” “Woodstockiensis,” “Peto,” “E. P.” “S. U.” “T. D. B. S.” “F. G. R.” “Derevon,” “Discipulus,” “A. T.” “Volteur,” “Geso,” “A. V. X.” “H. V.” “J. II. J.” “B. V.” “Jordan F.” “R. R.” “S. H. P.” “G. G.” “An Old Subscriber,” “E. H.” “Otha,” “A. L. M.” “P. W.” “Bothyene,” “C. H. Z.” “R. H. S.” “Maza,” “Etoniensis,” “M. E. R.” “F. S.” “Wigtonensis,” “E. B. R.” “W. L.” “Latrunculi,” “Giberton,” “T. W.” “F. C.” “J. G.” “Automaton,” “Latrunculi,” “Giberton,” “T. W.” “F. C.” “J. G.” “Automaton,” are correct. Those by “W. H.” “T. M.” “Argus,” are wrong.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 257.

WHITE. BLACK. WHITE. BLACK.

1. B to Q 8th (ch) K to B 4th 3. R to R 3d Kt moves 4. Kt mates at Q 5th

2. B to Kt 6th (ch) K to Kt 5th, or (a) Kt moves

(a) 2. Kt to Q 5th (ch) K takes B 3. P to Q Kt 4th Kt moves 4. Kt mates.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 258.

In three moves.

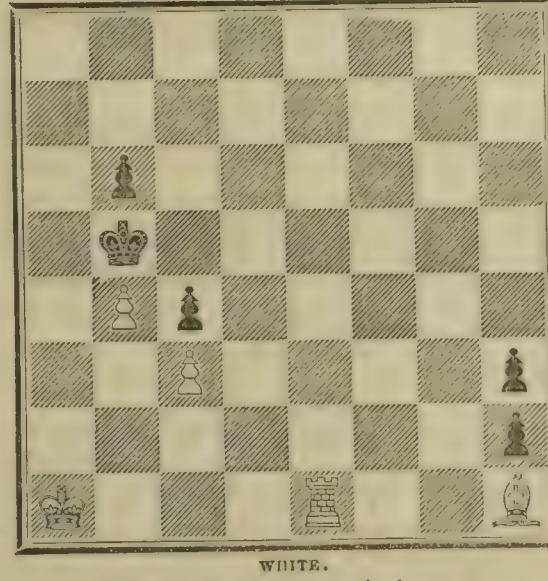
WHITE. BLACK. WHITE. BLACK. WHITE. BLACK. WHITE. BLACK.

1. R to Q 5th K to Q B 3d 3. B to Q 7th—Mate

2. K to Q B 8th P to Q 3d

PROBLEM NO. 259.—By Mr. H. J. C. ANDREWS.

BLACK.



White, playing first, to mate in six moves.

MATCH BY CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN THE CHESS CLUBS OF LONDON AND AMSTERDAM.

WHITE (Amsterdam). BLACK (London).

22. B to Q 3d 23. B to Q 2d London to play.

GAME IN THE LATE MATCH BETWEEN CAPTAIN KENNEDY AND MR. LOWE.

BLACK (Mr. L.) WHITE (Capt. K.) BLACK (Mr. L.) WHITE (Capt. K.)

1. P to K 1th P to K 3d 22. K to B 8q Q takes P at Q 3d

2. P to Q B 4th P to Q B 4th 23. K takes Kt P takes Kt

3. P to K B 4th Q to Kt 2d 24. K to Kt sq B to Q B 3d

4. Kt to B 3d Kt to R 3d 25. B to Q B 2d K to R K B 3d

5. Q to Kt 2d Kt to B 3d 26. K to B sq Q to Q 5th (ch)

6. Kt to B 3d Kt to B 2d 27. R to K B 2d P to K R 4th

7. Castles P to Q 3d 28. K to R 2d P to K R 4th

8. Q to K 2d P to Q 3d 29. Q to K 3d Q takes Q

9. P to Q Kt 3d K to B to his 3d 30. P takes Q P to K 4th

10. Q to B to Q Kt 2d (a) Q to Kt 5th 31. P to K B 5th P to K 5th

11. Kt takes Kt K takes Kt 5th (ch) 32. Q B to K R 4th K to R K B 2d

12. K to R sq K to Kt 5th 33. P to K B 6th P takes P

13. Kt to Q sq Kt takes K R P (b) 34. R to K B 5th Q to K 4th

14. Q B takes B K takes R 35. R takes K B P R takes R

15. B to K 2d (c) Q to K B 3d (d) 36. Q B takes R R to K B 4th

16. P to K 5th Q to K R 3d (ch) 37. Q B to K R 4th R to K B 8th

17. K to Kt sq K to K R 7th 38. P to Q K 4th P takes P

18. Q B to K Kt 3d Kt to K Kt 5th 39. Q B to K 7th P to Q R 4th

19. K P takes P Q to K B 3d 40. K to K 3d P to Q B 8th

20. R to Q Kt sq P to Q 5th (ch) 41. K B to Q Kt 3d P to Q R 5th

21. Kt to K 3d B to Q 2d 42



LAUNCH OF THE "MEANEER," 80 GUNS, AT BOMBAY.

water, she scarcely occasioned any ruffle or surge, and that no swell or perturbation was apparent as the sea closed up behind her; though some three thousand tons of water must have been displaced by her, the displacement was so gently effected as scarcely to occasion a swell. After the launch was over, a party of about three hundred partook of an elegant *déjeuner*, provided for them by Commodore Hawkins. All the arrangements were as perfect as might be, and the most made, by the excellence of the accessories, of a spectacle which in itself was peculiarly imposing. The following are the dimensions of the *Meaneer*:-

		Feet	Inches
Length of the Gun Deck	..	190	0
Ditto of Keel for Tonnage	..	155	3
Extreme Breadth	..	56	9
Breadth for Tonnage	..	56	0
Ditto Moulded	..	55	3
Depth in Hold	..	23	4
Burthen	..	about 2600 Tons.	

THE PARSEE HEAD BUILDER.

Cursetjee Rustomjee Waddia of the Honourable Company's Dockyard, Bombay, was born in 1785; and entered the yard under his uncle, Framjee, then Master Builder, in 1800, as an apprentice in the shipwrights' line. He was promoted to Fourth Assistant Builder in 1805, in which capacity he had the superintendence (in conjunction with the other assistants) of all ships building and repairing in the Bombay docks. In 1812 he was raised to the situation of Se-

in person, Cursetjee Rustomjee is of the middle height, with a remarkably pleasing and intelligent countenance, and possesses great activity, notwithstanding his increasing years (his age being 63). He is deservedly treated with the greatest consideration by the Government that he has for so long a period faithfully served.

With respect to the noble 80-gun ship, of which there are two Views, the *Meaneer*, although a superintendent was appointed by the Lords of the Admiralty (Mr. George Turner), with an assistant (Mr. William Ladd), to overlook the work and give the lines, the whole of the laborious part of the building of the ship was performed under the directions of Cursetjee Rustomjee and his assistants, Jehanger and Herjeebhoy. The *Meaneer* is built of picked timber, and very highly finished.

We are indebted for the accompanying Views and Portrait to Daguerreotypes, cleverly taken by Mr. A. J. Roussac, of Bombay.

THE LAMB AND FLAG RAGGED SCHOOLS, CLERKENWELL.

The Committee of this excellent Institution having decided again to appeal to the subscribers for funds to enable them to furnish the children with a good Old English entertainment, accordingly set on foot a subscription, at the same time announcing that the balance would be appropriated towards the establishment of an Infant School. The result of this appeal to the good-feeling of the public at this season of hospitality has exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its promoters; for it is stated, that, after paying all expenses, the balance will be sufficiently large to induce the Committee at once to establish an Infant Day-school. Among the subscribers to this fund are Lords Ellesmere, Ashley, and Ilarrowby; Mr. Justice Erle; George Hitchcock, Esq.; Messrs. Nicholson, of St. John-street, distillers; H. B. Ker, Esq., &c.

Tuesday, the 2nd, was appointed for the Christmas festival, and all was bustle and animation in the miserable courts and alleys surrounding the Schools. The

three School-rooms were tastefully decorated for the occasion; and conspicuously were displayed some handsome maps, objects in natural history, &c., presented to the Schools by the Committee of Council on Education; while the silk banner of the institution, the gift of a member of the Committee, with its motto, "Ecce Agnus illa Dei," suggested to the contemplative mind feelings of the most grateful character to the Giver of all Good for the origin of an institution so well calculated, under his blessing, to train up the children of the poor in the way they should go.

The following was the bill of fare:-190 lb. of fine roast beef, 12 plum puddings of 16 and 18 lb. weight each; 2 cwt. of the best potatoes, 9 gallons of table ale, bread, &c. The puddings were composed of 77 lb. of plums, 25 lb. of currants, 7 lbs. of candied peel, 1 gallon of milk, 1 lb. of spice, 10 quarters of flour, 8 lb. of bread, 240 eggs, and 24 lb. of suet.

At twelve o'clock the children began to assemble; by one no less than 296 were seated; and a most gratifying spectacle it was to behold these poor children all decently clad—here and there some poor tattered and shoeless child proclaimed the nature of the institution in which they were assembled; but all were clean, forming a most powerful contrast to the state they were in before the schools were established.

The children being seated, and prayer having been offered to the Giver of all Good, they chaunted grace before meat with admirable precision; and in a few minutes all were engaged in despatching the good things before them; the ladies of the committee, teachers, and friends rendering all the assistance in their power to the enjoyment of their poor fellow-creatures.

Dinner being ended, and the children having chaunted grace after meat, they were briefly addressed by Mr. Watts, the superintendent, who pointed out the great advantage of attending school, and of cultivating a religious education. The proceedings terminated by the children singing "God Save the Queen;" each child being presented, on leaving the School, with a penny, as "a Christ-mas-box."

In the evening the children were again assembled to witness the exhibition of a magic lantern on moral and religious subjects, accompanied with suitable remarks by Mr. Stephen Shirley, of Drury-lane, who, unsolicited, placed his services at the disposal of the committee. And thus ended the third Annual Festival of the Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools.



CURSETJEE RUSTOMJEE, HEAD BUILDER OF THE H. E. I. COMPANY'S DOCK AND SHIP BUILDING YARD AT BOMBAY.

second Assistant; and, in 1817, to that of First Assistant. In 1821 became Second Builder, and as such, in 1831, received, as a mark of approbation, from the Honourable Court of Directors, a silver rule, in token of their estimation of the value of his services; and, finally, in 1844, was promoted to the very responsible situation of Head Builder at Bombay; his services embracing thus a period of nearly half a century.

In the course of this period upwards of one hundred large and small ships have been built for the Honourable Company, whilst for the service of the Crown there have been no less than ten line-of-battle ships, five frigates, and six brigs; also for His Highness the Imam of Muscat one line-of-battle ship, two frigates, and five sloops, besides numerous vessels for the merchant service.

On the occasion of driving the silver nail in her Majesty's brig *Goshawk* (afterwards *Nerubula*), he had the satisfaction of receiving a silver hammer from one of the senior members of the Government, the Honourable Mr. James Henry Crawford.

"THE LAMB AND FLAG" RAGGED SCHOOLS.

THE CIRQUE NATIONAL, AT DRURY-LANE.

The very clever performances of the equestrian troupe from the Champs Elysées, now at Drury-lane, are attracting nightly crowded and fashionable audiences; and the "Clowns of the Ring" bring down as hearty bursts of laughter as their clever *confrères* in the pantomimes. Although there is not much that is absolutely new to an English audience in the acts of horsemanship or drollery, yet the neat style in which everything is done—the attention to little matters—and the exceeding beauty of the costumes (depending generally more upon taste than spangles for their effect) produce an *ensemble* that cannot fail to attract. Mdlle. Caroline and Mdlle. Palmyre Anato are charming representatives of the different schools of equestrian performances; and M. Wehl and the Siegrists (an entire family) are daring to an almost fearful degree.

The forces combined are seen to the best advantage in an act called "La Lutte des Voltigeurs," which we have this week represented, and in which the new addition to the company, Mahomed Ben Said, performs some marvellous leaps and somersaults. The effect they produce in rapidly flying over the horse, one after another, until a continuous circle of vaulters is formed, is really exciting, and brings down thunders of applause.

The *grotesques*—Messrs. Auriol, father and son, and Leclair—fill up the intermediate time, between the different acts, with great *éclat*. Those who have not seen the latter performer strive to pick up his handkerchief, when he is upon stilts, and supposed to be slightly intoxicated, have still a hearty laugh in store.

A word for little Marie Anato, who is an exceedingly graceful dancer on horseback; and also for the general arrangements, which, under the superintendence of M. Dejean, are as perfect as could be desired.

CHARLES LAMB'S HOUSE,
COLEBROOK-ROW, NEAR ISLINGTON.

THIS was Charles Lamb's holiday house, the scene of the first substantial enjoyment of leisure, on his emancipation from the desk at the India House, and that routine of drudgery of which, in his own way, he writes thus:—"Confusion blast all mercantile transactions, all traffic, exchange of commodities, intercourse between nations, all the consequent civilization and wealth, and amity, and link of society, and getting rid of prejudices, and knowledge of the face of the globe, and rot the very firs of the forest, that look so romantic alive, and die into desks." This event occurred in 1825, and with the accompaniment of a handsome pension, the entire control of his own time, and a new sense of independence, may well be supposed to have proved, at first, somewhat perplexing, after the routine of Leadenhall-street, and the matter of fact entries of those "merchants and their spicy drugs, which are so harmonious to sing



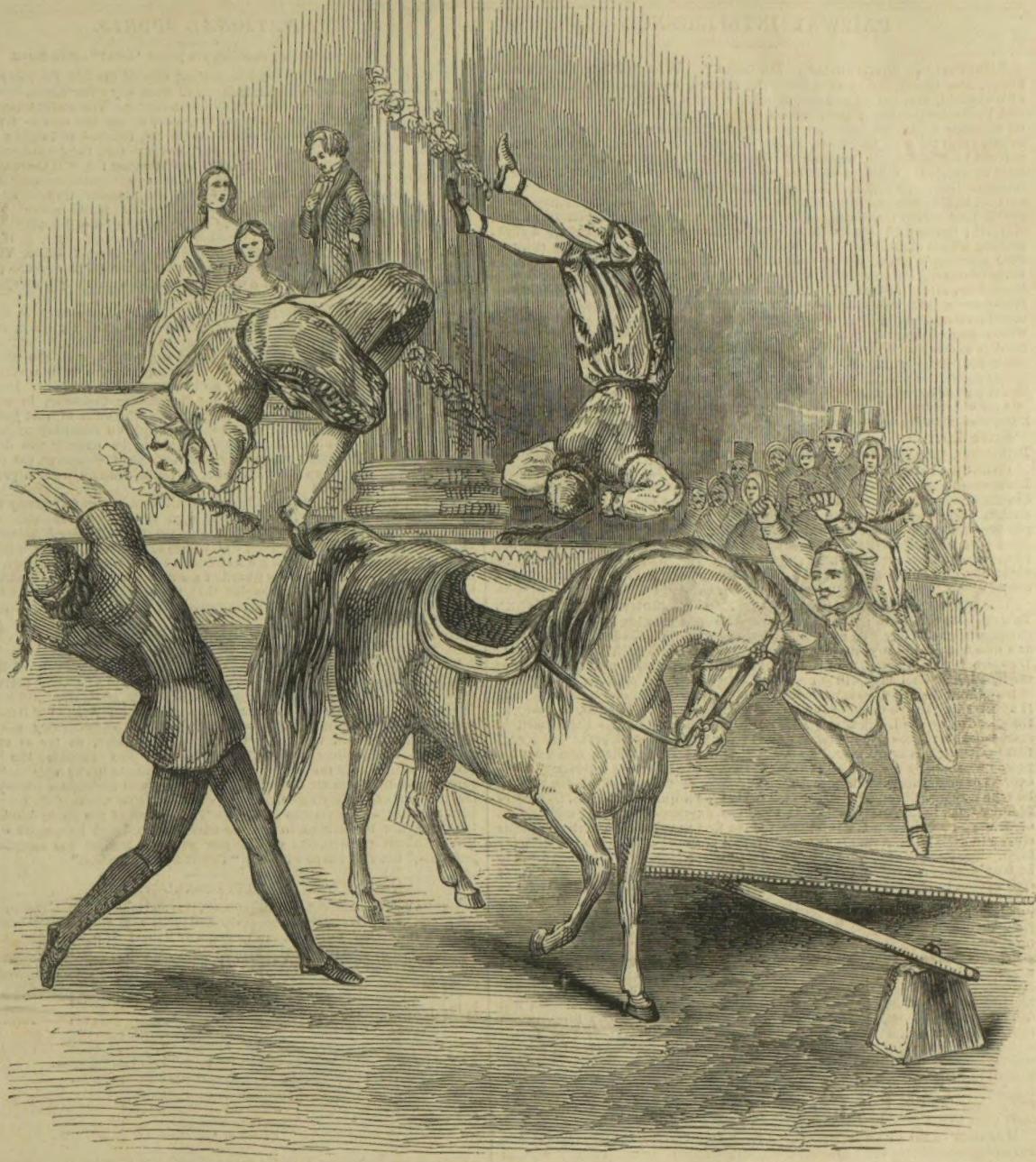
CHARLES LAMB'S HOUSE, NEAR ISLINGTON.

of." "The incomprehensibleness of my condition," he says, "overwhelmed me. It was like passing from life into eternity. Every year to be as long as three, that is to have three times as much real time—time that is my own—in it. I wandered about, thinking I was happy, but feeling I was not. But that tumultuousness is passing off, and I begin to understand the nature of the gift. Holidays, even the annual month, were always uneasy joys, with their conscious fugitiveness, the craving after making the most of them. Now, when all is holiday, there are no holidays. I can sit at home, in rain or shine, without a restless impulse for walkings. I am daily steadyed, and shall soon find it as natural to me to be my own master as it has been irksome to have had a master." Lamb had but little enjoyment in the country: his paradoxical genius had a proneness to convert poetical things into matters of fact, as it had to elevate the common-place into something which, by its raciness and geniality, was near akin to poetry.

Colebrook-row seems a spot ordained for Lamb, and it has just sufficient of the *rue in urbe*, without too much to separate it from a neighbourly character. There is a tree, but it is a true London willow—something not unlike that which grows upon a dinner-service of the "willow pattern." The waters, too, of the New River, which flows close by, are not of a volume to oppress the mind by its immensity, and here they are trimly curbed by a border of brickwork; one side affording a pleasant walk along its limpid margin, or where the disciples of Walton enjoy the harmless part of the angler's recreation, in patiently watching a tranquil float. Here Lamb enjoyed his dearly-earned leisure, with that sister who is known to the indifferent reader merely as Bridget Ella, and whose part in the Holborn tragedy only endeared her the more to him, in compassion for the mental disorganisation that precipitated it, while it brought out the generous and manly qualities of his nature, in the protection which her helplessness demanded; an act well repaid by a life of affection and kindly association afterwards.

The rails shown in the Cut (opposite the house) are those which Lamb had set up directly after, under his own careful inspection, in order to prevent the repetition of such a catastrophe for the future. The house is scarcely changed since Charles Lamb passed what may be considered the pleasantest portion of his life in it, and from this place issued some of the raciest of those conceits, and rare combinations of heterogeneous whims and fancies, which—sparkling in his matchless correspondence—give an importance to the most ordinary topics, and shed a grace over whatsoever they embody.

A NEW ANIMAL.—M. Antoine d'Abbadie, writing to the *Athenaeum*, from Cairo, gives the following account of an animal new to European science, which account he received from Baron Von Müller, who had recently returned to that city from Kordofan:—"At Melpes, in Kordofan," said the Baron, "where I stopped some time to make my collections, I met on the 17th of April; 1848, a man who was in the habit of selling to me specimens of animals. One day he asked me if I wished also for an A'nsa, which he described thus:—"It is of the size of a small donkey, has a thick body and thin bones, coarse hair, and tail like a boar. It has a long horn on its forehead, and lets it hang when alone, but erects it immediately on seeing an enemy. It is a formidable weapon; but I do not know its exact length. The A'nsa is found not far from here (Melpes), towards the S.S.W. I have seen it often in the wild grounds, where the negroes kill it, and carry it home to make shields from its skin."—N.B. This man was well acquainted with the rhinoceros, which he distinguished under the name of Fertit from the A'nsa. On June 14 I was at Kursi, also in Kordofan, and met there a slave merchant who was not acquainted with my first informer, and gave me spontaneously the same description of the A'nsa, adding that he had killed and eaten one not long before, and that its flesh was well-flavoured." "Herr Rippell and M. Fresnel," adds M. d'Abbadie, "have already spoken of a one-horned African quadruped; and I have also some notes which tend to establish the existence of, perhaps, two different kinds."



"LA LUTTE DES VOLTIGEURS," AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

BLACKWALL EXTENSION RAILWAY BRIDGE

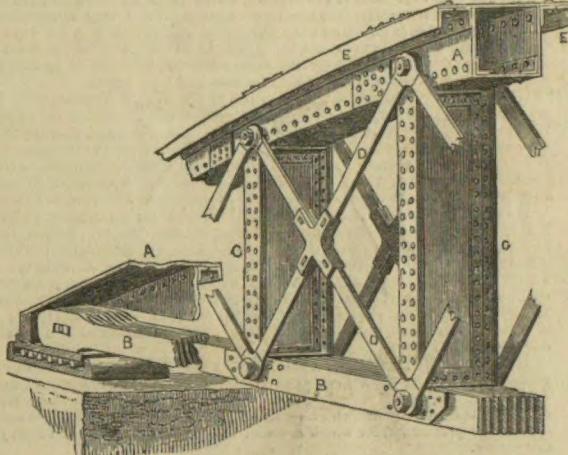
OVER THE COMMERCIAL-ROAD EAST.

AN interesting festival, in celebration of the completion of Mr. Brassey's contract on the railway works of the Blackwall Extension, was held at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill, on Wednesday last. Joseph Locke, Esq., M.P., presided, supported by the Chairman and Directors of the Blackwall Company, the East and West India Dock Railway Company; W. Chaplin, Esq. M.P.; R. D. Mangies, Esq., M.E., and a large number of gentlemen interested in railway business. Mr. H. E. Burt officiated as Vice-President.

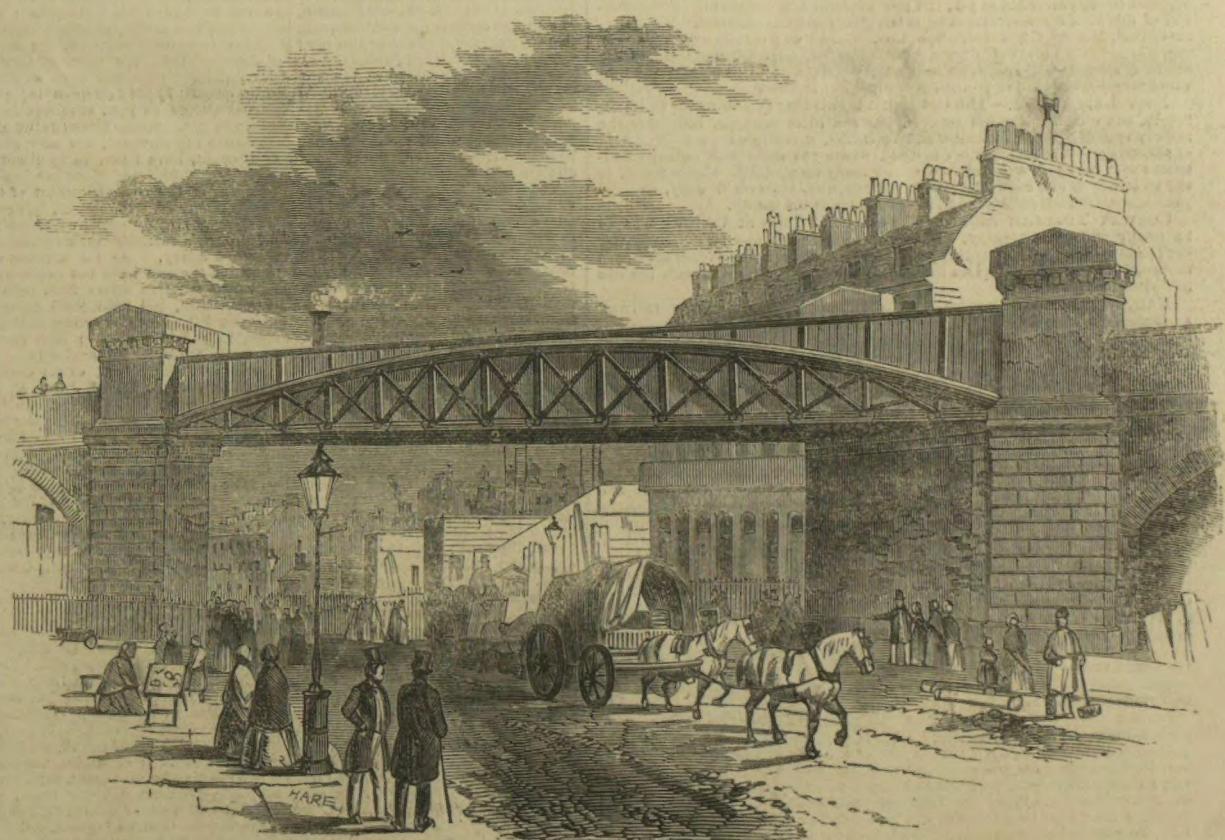
The object of this new link in the metropolitan system of railways is to bring the Eastern Counties and other lines, now terminating at Shoreditch, more immediately into the City, which is effected by a branch from the old Blackwall Railway at Stepney, to join the Eastern Counties line at Old Ford.

We have engraved the most remarkable work—the Bridge by which the line crosses the Commercial-road East.

The peculiar construction of this Bridge will be understood by reference to the annexed diagram. The front end shows a section through the trussed girder at 1, 2 (see large view). The strength of the Bridge depends upon the rib or arch A A, and the tie-bars B B, by which the extremities are held together. The vertical stays, or pendants (C C), support the tie-bars (B B), and connect and distribute the weight of the floor equally throughout the entire arch; they also give great longitudinal and transverse firmness to the structure. The diagonal braces, D D, prevent undue deflection when the girder is unequally loaded. The arch is strengthened laterally by the overhanging of the top rail, E E. The whole arch and stays are constructed of boiler-plates and angle iron. The tie-bars are each 8 inches wide, and 1 inch thick, and as many are used as will bear the requisite strain. One foot of the arch is fixed in the masonry, but the other, as is shown, is fitted with a sliding shoe on rollers, to admit of expansion, &c.



It was constructed by Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., under the direction of Mr. Locke, M.P.



BLACKWALL EXTENSION RAILWAY BRIDGE, COMMERCIAL-ROAD EAST.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

SHEFFIELD, ROTHERHAM, BARNESLEY, WAKEFIELD, HUDDERSFIELD, AND GOOLE RAILWAY.—Since the meeting of this company, last week, at Wakefield, for altering and modifying the terms of lease to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company, the directors, at the request of the proprietors, issued, on Saturday last, a financial statement of the company's affairs, from which it appears that the total payments, as per statement at last half-yearly meeting, amount to £73,738, and, together with subsequent payments of £21,420, to a total of £95,158. The future liabilities of the company, under contract, are as follows:—Messrs. Miller and Co.'s contract for works, including all contingencies, £146,254; less amount paid, £54,412; total, £91,842—to which are to be added, land agreed for, £1201; material for permanent way, timber, rails, &c., £21,691; interest on shares, £4533; directory, £900; engineering, £4790; making a total of £127,967. The estimated future liabilities not under contract are: solicitors' charges, £900; land not agreed for and conveying, £11,881; office charges, £550; material for permanent way, and cost of stations, not contracted for, £15,000—total, £28,331; or a grand total of £251,456. The directors observe, that in this exposition they have distinguished the liabilities which are of certain amount, from their being under special contract, from those to which some contingency may attach. The amount of items under the latter head is so comparatively small as to afford them every reason to expect that the estimated capital of £260,000, for which the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company's guarantee of 5 per cent. and half-profits provides, will be more than sufficient for the completion of the entire works of the railway, which they calculate the contractor will have no difficulty in accomplishing by December next, if supplied with the necessary funds.

EAST LOTHIAN.—The share-holders intend to apply, next session of Parliament, for dissolution of their company.

FRENCH RAILWAY REGULATIONS.—The Central Railway Committee has ordered that for the future the various companies shall adopt the system of communication established on the Orleans and Vierzon lines, between the conductors who sit behind and the engine-men in front. This system consists in placing behind the tender a special conductor, fronting the diligences and wagons, with whom the other conductors placed at the extremity of the train are to correspond by means of a flag during the day, and a coloured lantern at night. In case of any signal of an accident, the conductor near the tender, and consequently close to the engine-man, can ring an alarm-clock.

THE SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY AND PERIODICAL PASSENGER TICKETS.—The following statement in reference to a meeting of certain regular passengers on this line has been published:—“Certain resolutions were passed at a meeting of railway passengers on the 18th Dec., held at the Hero of Waterloo Tavern, the fourth of which conveys the conclusion of those attending the meeting: ‘That they will support and adopt, as far as possible, other modes of travelling, if a more reasonable dealing with the public cannot be maintained.’ It appears that the occasion of the meeting in question is twofold, viz.—First, the adoption by the London and South-Western Railway of the experiment of season-tickets; secondly, the raising of the double-journey tickets. It appears that season-tickets are now issued for the first time on this line, and afford a person whose daily occupation leads him to town the means of travelling by the express or any other train in a first-class carriage, at the rate of 1d. per mile, instead of 2d. per mile, the ordinary first-class fare, the express fares being higher. In other words, a reduction is now offered for the first time (to such of the public as choose to avail themselves of the arrangement) of 60 per cent. below the ordinary fares. The complaints of the railway travellers of the Hero of Waterloo appears to be that more is not offered. The answer of the directors to this charge is, of course, simply that they consider this as large a reduction as it is judicious to offer. On the second point: By taking a double-journey ticket at the rates raised as they, in some instances, now are, a passenger may still effect a saving of from 10 to 16 per cent. upon the fares authorised by Parliament, and charged upon this line. The complaint of the railway travellers in question is, that a greater drawback should be allowed, because it has hitherto, in some cases, been allowed. The answer of the directors, as in the season tickets, is that they consider the present drawback as much as it is judicious to offer. It may be remarked that the effect of both the arrangements complained of, viz. season and double-journey tickets, is greatly to reduce the rate of the ordinary fares authorised by Parliament, and charged upon this line (which remain as they were) and consequently to give the public something beyond to which they are strictly entitled, and yet these additional inducements to travel are made the subject of a grave complaint, and the occasion of an attempt at a public meeting.” It may be mentioned, in addition, that with a view to public accommodation during this festive season, the directors have put on “theatre trains,” which start from the Waterloo station three times a week at midnight.

DUNDEE AND PERTH RAILWAY, PERTH STATION.—Operations have commenced this week to erect a temporary station for this railway between Prince's-street and the river. This is to be the site of the permanent passenger station, the connexion by the viaduct with the general terminals being intended chiefly for the thorough goods traffic. An inclined plane has been formed, from Prince's street to the level of the viaduct, which is 18 feet above the shore road, about the middle of which the offices are erecting. The bridge is completed all to the draw, which is expected to be finished in the course of a few days. The draw is to be worked horizontally, on the principle of the gates at the West India Docks of London; and it is expected to be so easily wrought as to cause little detention, in the event of a passage being required for a vessel.

BLACKBURN, BOLTON, CLITHEROE, AND WEST YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.—The directors of this company have come to the determination to push on the opening of the Clitheroe branch as quickly as possible, and in order to do so, have determined to complete a single line of rails, and to economise the expenses of bridges, station houses, &c.; and what is most important to friendly societies not enrolled, they have relaxed a former rule adopted, of not borrowing money in sums under £500, but to accept smaller sums at five per cent.

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NATIONAL SPORTS.

“Do you take my meaning, you young 'coon?’—SAM SLICK.

The 1st of January is the most important day of the 365 for those who, out of reverence for the prevailing fashion, or from any other cause, occupy themselves with the theory or practice of horse-racing. The nominations for many of the most popular races of the season, as well as the entries for stakes to be run in future years, close when it has reached midnight; and with the succeeding dawn, the “coming events cast their shadows before.” The list consists of items far too numerous to insert; it will therefore be most convenient to quote as samples two of the most immediate concern: these are, the Great Metropolitan Stakes and the Chester Cup. The articles for the former recite that it shall “close and name to Messrs. Weatherby, 6, Old Burlington-street, London, on the 1st of January;” the latter on the same day, with Messrs. Weatherby, as aforesaid: Mr. E. W. Topham, clerk of the course, Chester, and Mr. R. Johnson, *Herald* office, York. And these depositions say no further. Thus the conditions begin and end; no provision whatever being made for their announcement within any time specified—or at all!

The Metropolitan Handicap and the Chester Cup have been in the market for a month or two, and many horses have been backed for them, in the belief or the hope that they would at least be entered—to say nothing of their accepting. When will the public be made acquainted with the first of these issues? The parties who received the nominations have been several days in possession of the intelligence—it is still news for the million. Persons who applied in the middle of the week for the *Racing Calendar*, in which they reckoned on finding the information, were told at the office of that journal, that it would not be published till after twelve o'clock on Saturday the 6th—when the entries which closed on New Year's Day would be exactly five days and a half old. Should a little bird, by any accident, have whispered the contents of that tardy broadsheet to the ears of the *fortunati nimirum*, what a pretty *apres* they had to play with!

Yes! *P. P. belting* is Aladdin's lamp. Shall we despair of a remedy for an evil so crying as this? No! These are the days of great discoveries. *El Dorado* has turned up on the peninsula of California; and *M. Antoine d'Abbadie* has not only found the unicorn inhabiting the valleys of Kordofan, but of a much more picturesque physiology than fable had drawn it—with a horn that can be raised or lowered at pleasure, like the guard of a carving-fork. The despotism of the Greeks must yield to the liberal spirit that is abroad; and the hour is not remote in which the laureate of the ring shall thus record the altered features of Hyde Park Corner:—

Such is the aspect of this shore:

“Tis Greece—but living Greece no more!

The early part of the week was bound in frost, and no portion of it was appointed for any sporting matter of public account. Although there was no official authority for the assumption, it was pretty generally understood that the promise of the turf was in the ascendant. The early Epsom handicap, for which, last year, the nominations were 91, has very considerably advanced on that quotation; and the Chester Cup will be better, as far as subscribers go, than its predecessor. The odds subjoined furnish the *status in quo* of speculation in the system likely to predominate in the approaching campaign, as a substitute for the defunct “Sweeps” will embrace a library of books for the purpose of laying against everything. To these will be added the banks opened with a view to public accommodation of the same kind. It will, therefore, not be difficult to get the odds. Should you lose, there will be no trouble about the deposit; should you win (do not be too sanguine), “uti possidetis,” the English of which is “Put it in your pocket.”

TATTERSALL'S.

MONDAY.—The betting, this afternoon, turned chiefly on the Chester Cup; for which Great Western, Athelstane, and Mrs. Taft were in general request. There was nothing, however, in the shape of “movement,” the quotations, with two or three trifling exceptions, remaining as before.

CHESTER CUP.

35 to 1 agst Cossack (t)	50 to 1 agst Geraldine (t)	55 to 1 agst Eagle's Plume (t)
40 to 1 —— The Tartar (t)	50 to 1 —— Mrs. Taft (t)	60 to 1 —— Chanticleer (t)
50 to 1 —— Melody (t)	50 to 1 —— Blaze (t)	65 to 1 —— Keleshe (t)
50 to 1 —— Great Western (t)	50 to 1 —— Athelstane (t)	100 to 1 —— Fernhill (t)
100 to 1 agst Puss the Ninth (t)		

DERBY.

35 to 1 agst Strongbow (t)	40 to 1 agst Elthiron
THURSDAY.—The following were the only blows struck:—	
METROPOLITAN HANDICAP.	
500 to 15 agst The Tartar	
CHESTER CUP.	
1000 to 15 agst Clermont	
DEBBY.	
1000 to 30 agst Strongbow	1000 to 15 agst Siliastria colt
1000 to 25 agst Velveteen colt	
Mr. Creagh's Cawrough died on Wednesday last.	

At a meeting of the General Board of Health at Gwydyr House on Wednesday, Lord Ashley in the chair, a deputation from Birmingham, consisting of the mayor, Aldermen Phillips and Martineau, and the town-clerk, had an interview, and presented a petition from the rated inhabitants, praying for the application of the Public Health Act to that town.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE FROM FIRE.—The following is a summary of fires attended, and human life saved, by means of the Society's fire-escapes and conductors, since its re-establishment in 1843.

	Number of Stations.	Fires attended.	Lives saved.
1844	9 increased during year to 11
1845	11 ..	83 ..	8
1846	15 ..	160 ..	12
1847	21 ..	198 ..	12
1848	24 ..	213 ..	27

STILLING THE WAVES.—Intelligence was received at Lloyd's, last week, of the total loss of the brig *Fortschrift*, of Stettin, Rondfleisch master, bound to Dublin, on the North Sand. On the vessel striking, the master and crew, eight in number, got into the long boat, starting a large quantity of oil overboard, which prevented the sea, as they went before it across the sand, from breaking into their boat. This novel expedient preserved their lives, as the boat would otherwise have been swamped, and they must all have perished; they were thus able to cross the sand, and were picked up and landed in Ramsgate.

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READING Guildford, and Reigate, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$; Royston and Hitchin, 2; Shrewsbury and Birmingham, 3; ditto, Class B, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$; Shrewsbury, Chester, and Oswestry, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$; xi; Shropshire Union, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$; South-Eastern, 24 $\frac{1}{2$

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20 ADVERTISERS.—As we restrict the Advertisements to one Page only, to prevent disappointment two or three days, notice is necessary to ensure the insertion of an Advertisement. The Exhibitions will be found on page 6.

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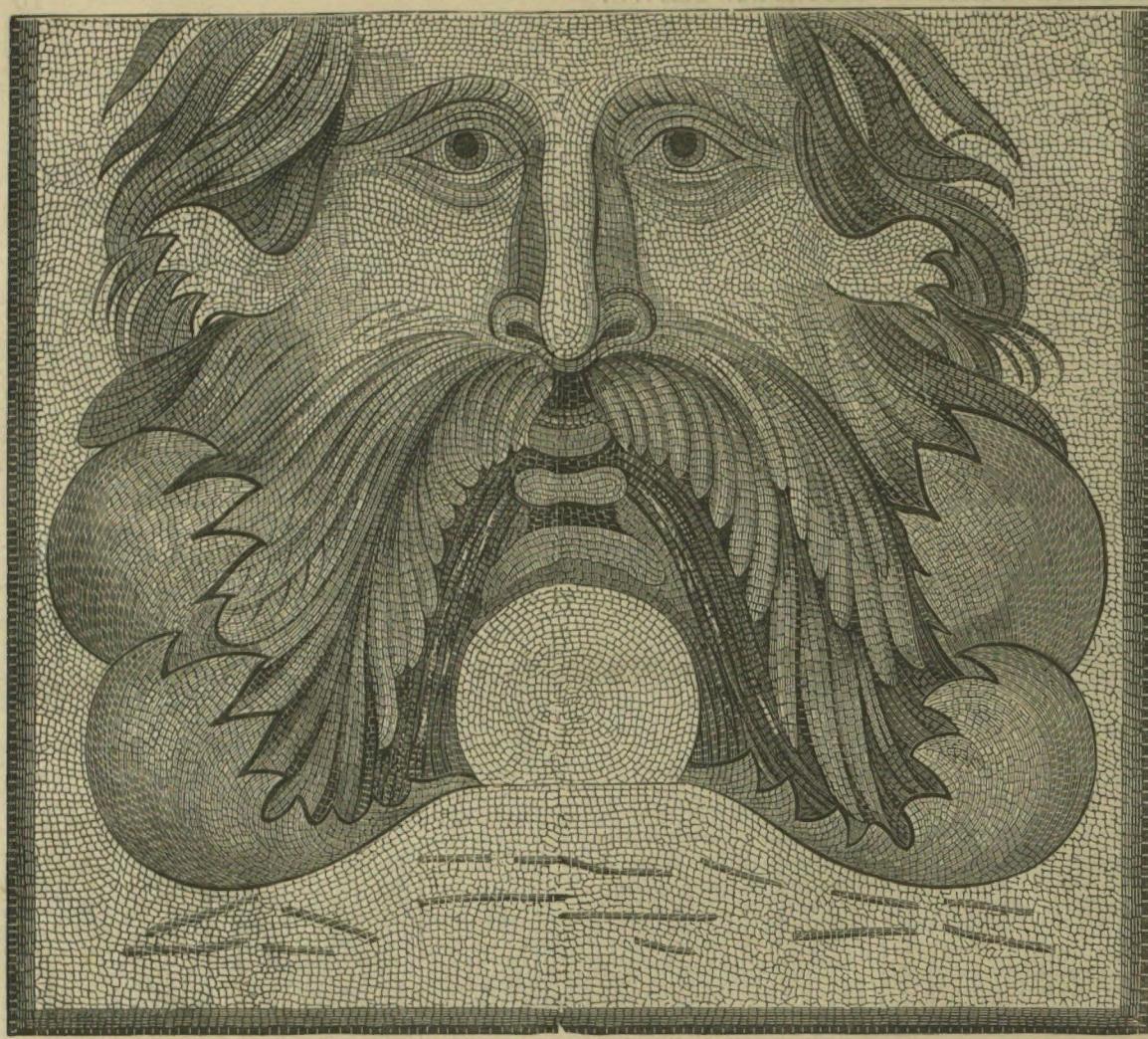
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MOSAIC, JUST ADDED TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM COLLECTION.

MOSAIC AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

This beautiful specimen of Mosaic has lately been brought from Athens, and has been presented to the Museum by Mr. Hudson Gurney. It is placed in the central Grand Saloon of Antiquities.

When received in this country the slab was broken, but it has been very carefully restored by Sir Richard Westmacott. It measures 8 feet by 7 feet 6 inches, and bears the representation of a Water Deity (*Jupiter Pluvius*). The general colour is a reddish brown; but the hair and beard are dark green, and resembles sea-weed.

The Museum has been closed during the past week for the usual vacation, but will be re-opened on Monday next, the 8th. During the four days the Museum was open in Christmas week, the number of visitors amounted to 37,260: of which, on Tuesday, the number were 12,875; Wednesday, 14,435; Thursday, 2231; and Friday, 779; in all, 37,260, which, considering the shortness of the days and the inclemency of the weather, is a much larger number than usual.

M. T. BAINES, Esq.—We mentioned last week that Matthew Talbot Baines, Esq., Q.C., the eldest son of the late Edward Baines, Esq., of Leeds, had been appointed President of the Poor-Law Board, in the place of the late Charles Buller, Esq. Mr. Baines, who is one of the representatives of Hull, has since issued an address to the electors of that borough. He says:—"The office upon which I am about to enter has been offered to me spontaneously. It has not been sought or solicited by me in any way whatever, and, least of all, has it been earned by any political subserviency, unworthy alike of you and myself. I have accepted it, not because I was ignorant of the difficulties and labours by which it is and ever must be attended, but because I thought it presented opportunities of doing good, which I could not have hoped for in a merely private station. * * Should I have the honour of being re-elected, I may promise myself the pleasure of being able to do this more efficiently hereafter, inasmuch as I shall no longer be obliged to absent myself from London during any part of the session of Parliament (which the pursuit of my profession has hitherto rendered necessary), but shall always be upon the spot to watch over your interests and to promote them by every means in my power." The election will not take place until after the meeting of Parliament.

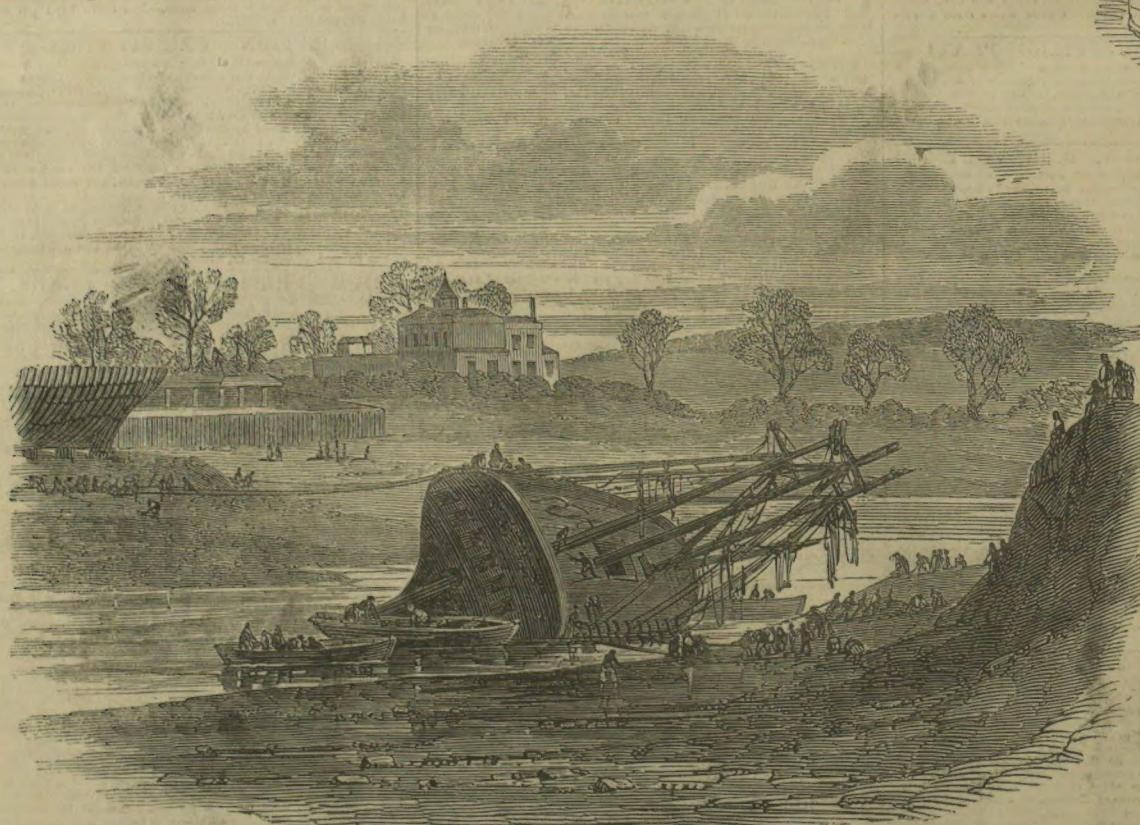
THE POPE AND THE BELGIANS.—The Belgians are circulating a respectful address to his Holiness Pope Pius IX., dated Christmas-day, in which, after reminding the Pope of the respect, submission, and loyalty evinced by the Belgians at all times for his Holiness, they highly deprecate recent events, which compelled him to flee from the patrimony inherited from St. Peter; and offer their persons and property, in order to re-establish, wholly and intact, the exercise of the spiritual and temporal authority of the Holy See. In any other

age than this, every true Catholic would have shuddered at such acts, and would have come from every quarter under Heaven to re-establish the Pope in his just rights. They entreat him, in conclusion, to extend his benediction to his faithful Belgian children, and that hand from which the Angel of the Lord caused the chains to fall, in the night in which he led him through the midst of the guards who were watching him in his captivity. This address was got up, in the first instance, by Count L. T. Ratisbon, of Boortzick. It has already obtained numerous signatures.

EXTRAORDINARY TELEGRAPH FEAT.—President Polk's cumbersome Message, containing upwards of 50,000 words (!), was flashed all the way from Baltimore to St. Louis in twenty-four hours, and this, too, with the minutest punctuation mark in the document. Copies were also dropped, on the way, at York, Harrisburg, Carlisle, Chambersburg, Bedford, and Pittsburg, in Pennsylvania; Massillon, Cleveland, Zanesville, Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati, in Ohio; Madison and Evansville, in Indiana; Louisville, in Kentucky; and Saline, in Illinois. The gentlemen who accomplished this wonderful mental, mechanical, and electrical feat are Messrs. O'Reilly, of the Atlantic and Lake Telegraph Company, and H. J. Rogers, of the American Telegraph Company, who wished to prove beyond all cavil that the lightning line can be made available for the transmission of large documents as well as for short messages, and we think they have pretty well satisfied the public of their ability to do it. Messrs. Reddish and Hough, of Philadelphia, connected with the O'Reilly line, were detained for the most important part of the duty to be performed, that of writing the entire document in Baltimore. Their arduous task was begun on Tuesday, shortly after the Message came to hand, and at a few minutes before two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon finished their almost Herculean undertaking—at which hour the signature of James K. Polk, and the Washington date, were written as plainly and legibly as the caption had been 24 hours previously. The two operators were at work, relieving each other occasionally, during the entire time, with the exception of a couple of hours, when they were interrupted by a storm at the western end of the line.—*New York Express*

WRECK OF THE "GLENBERVIE" WEST INDIAMAN.

On Saturday morning, the 23d ult., the ship *Glenbergie*, 330 tons register, left Bathurst Basin, Bristol, for the purpose



WRECK OF THE "GLENBERVIE," WEST INDIAMAN AT BRISTOL.

of proceeding to Newport, there to take in a cargo of coals on a return voyage to the Havannah.

The captain at first took a pilot; but the crew being all his own countrymen, and not very readily understanding English, the pilot said he must have an assistant. The captain refused to comply, and the pilot, accordingly, would not undertake the charge of the vessel; when the captain told him that he might go ashore, for he (the captain) could manage without him. The pilot then left; but the captain had not got his vessel much below the toll-gate, when she took the mud off Acranan's works, and soon heeled over, losing her masts, and blocking up the navigation. Every effort was made to raise her, but, for a long time, without success; we learn, however, that she has since been raised, and taken into Cumberland Basin to repair.

The charge for an assistant pilot would have been 3s. or 4s.: the expense of raising and repairing the *Glenbergie* will cost, probably, more than as many hundred pounds, to say nothing of the inconvenience and loss of time.

The vessel was grounded on a slip of mud and stones, represented by the dark mass abreast of her. She remained fast, as the tide was falling rapidly; and when the tide had almost left her dry, she fell over; her masts broken off by contact with the opposite bank of the New Cut. It should be observed that she ought not to have been taken down this river, or rather the New Cut—which is not the usual channel for large vessels, but for coasters and small craft only.

ANCIENT FONT IN ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, TAUNTON.

This curious baptismal vessel, after having been for many years half hidden in a recess in the wall of the south-west corner of St. James's Church, at Taunton, has just been removed to be placed in a position in which its sculptural enrichment is seen to proper advantage.

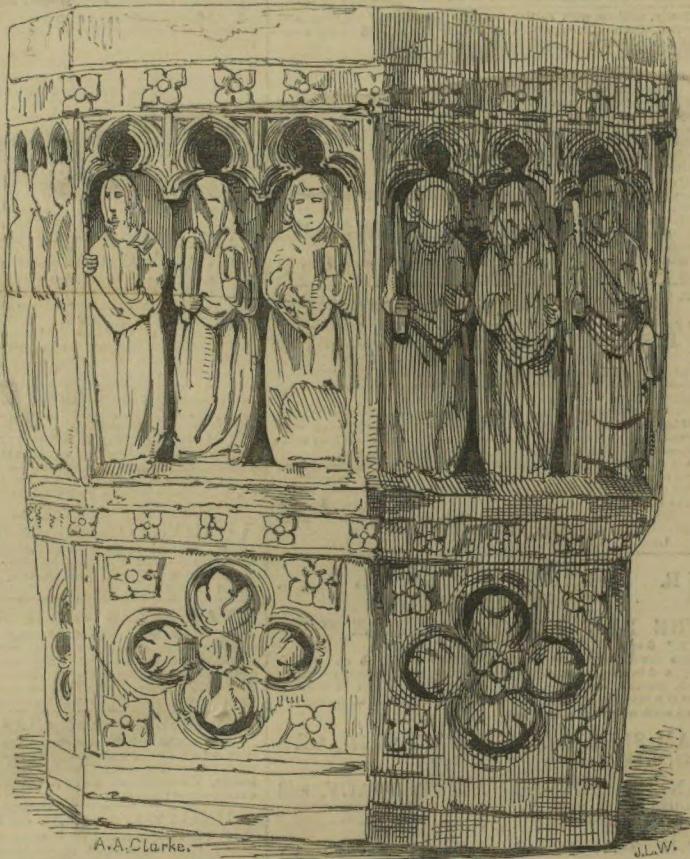
In form this Font is octagonal: it is of Gothic design, and each compartment has canopied niches, filled with statuary. Three of the compartments are so mutilated as not to be deciphered, but these are to be carefully restored after the pattern of the other five, which are in very fair preservation. The massive pedestal that supports the basin is also octagonal, and is decorated with boldly-sculptured quatrefoils; and in the centre of each is a boss. The rim of the basin (above the figures) is ornamented with a row of quatrefoils. The base or steps no longer remain.

If we except the hexagonal form, the octagonal is the most usual in which fonts occur: the latter is the most appropriate, as well as the most beautiful. It is symbolical, according to the ancient method of spiritualizing numbers, of the new birth in baptism; the seven days creation of the natural world being symbolised by the number 7, and the new creation by Christ by the number 8, in allusion to the eighth day on which He rose again from the dead.

The Font is evidently of the same age as the church, which was built in the 13th century. Two of the figures on the Font correspond with the remaining two in the niches of the tower, which are supposed to be St. Peter and St. Paul, or St. Peter and St. James. Very accurate drawings of the Font and its incidental ornaments have been made by Mr. A. A. Clarke, the clever artist, of Taunton, who has obligingly forwarded the Sketch whence the annexed representation has been engraved.

We hope to hear of this fine Gothic relic being perfectly restored, and placed upon steps in its fitting place, near the principal entrance of the church. The Font has been very badly treated, not so much by the Puritans of old as by the apathists of modern days, who have suffered the vessel to be much mutilated in its various shiftings: at one period it was placed near the altar, next under the organ gallery, and then as if it took up too much room for the great pews, it was thrust back into the south-west corner of the church, in a deep recess in the wall. A better taste has, however, been shown of late among the parishioners, an enlightened few having taken up the restoration of the Font, which we hope will be efficiently executed.

The figures can with care be deciphered. The figure of Saint James the



ANCIENT FONT AT TAUNTON.

Greater appears with staff and scrip, on the right hand of the Sketch, and corresponds with a figure of St. James, the patron Saint of the church, which remains in a niche in the tower. Figures of St. Bartholomew, St. James the Less, and St. Thomas, likewise appear in the portion of the Font shown in the Sketch. Upon one of the panels or faces is sculptured the Crucifixion; but it is much defaced. St. James's was originally the conventional church of the priory of the order of St. Augustine; but the only or principal portion remaining of the ancient structure is the square tower, to which we have referred.

THE WEATHER.

The weather, during the latter part of the week, has been severe; the direction of the wind has been E., and the average temperature has been below that of the season. The following are some particulars of each day:—Thursday, the sky was partially clear during the day, and overcast at other times; the direction of the wind was N., and the average temperature of the air was $40\frac{1}{2}$ °. Friday, the sky was overcast, the direction of the wind was N., and the average temperature was $38\frac{1}{2}$ °. Saturday, the sky was mostly overcast during the day, and it was cloudless at night; a thin rain was falling in the evening; the direction of the wind was N., and the average temperature was $36\frac{1}{2}$ °. Sunday, the sky was overcast; the direction of the wind was N.E., and the average temperature was $36\frac{1}{2}$ °. Monday, January 1, 1849, the sky was overcast till late in the evening, the direction of the wind was E., the day was very cold; the average temperature of the air was $31\frac{1}{2}$ °. Tuesday, the sky was cloudy, the direction of the wind was E., the air was very cold; its average value was $26\frac{1}{2}$ °. Wednesday, the sky was nearly cloudless till the evening; at night it was overcast; the temperature of the air was low all day, and did not exceed $27\frac{1}{2}$ ° till towards 8 P.M., when it increased to $30\frac{1}{2}$ °; the average value for the day was $25\frac{1}{2}$ °, and that for the week ending this day was $33\frac{1}{2}$ °.

The following are the extreme thermometrical readings of each day:

Thursday, Dec. 28	the highest during the day was 44 deg., and the lowest was 37 deg.
Friday, Dec. 29	42
Saturday, Dec. 30	40
Sunday, Dec. 31	40
Monday, Jan. 1, 1849.	33
Tuesday, Jan. 2	32
Wednesday, Jan. 3	30

Blackheath, Thursday, January 4th, 1849.

J. G.

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